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Sydney FC ...1
Victory ...1
page 12

Roar ...2
Knights ...0
page 11

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page 10

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page 9

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aussiesabroad

By Mark Stavroulakis

Greek Second Division side Panachaiki have signed up the services of former Sydney United midfielder **Peter Zorbas** on a one year-plus an extra year it was discussed last week.

The hard-working midfielder has impressed the coaching staff at the Greek side and has won his chance in playing under a side run by Adelaide businessman Con Makris.

Alongside Zorbas, former South Melbourne striker **Peter Koutsoupias** was offered a four-year deal at the club but he declined and has since arrived back in Melbourne.

The Adelaide pairing of **Adriano Pellegrino** and **Aaron Westervelt** have also been offered contracts at the Greek club.

★★★★★

Young U17 Joeys hopeful **Tayfun Buyukkopu** is close to signing a professional deal with Turkish side Trabzonspor.

The NSWIS graduate has caught the attention of the Turkish club and is awaiting a clearance from the FFA to clear him in playing for his new club.

★★★★★

Hammarby goalkeeper **Ante Covic** has caught the attention of Socceroo coach Guus Hiddink after being included in his recent training camp in Holland.

Covic took the spot of injured Wigan Athletic keeper John Filan and will be Australia's number three.

Covic has yet to miss a match for his Swedish side and has grabbed plaudits for being one of his side's most consistent players.

★★★★★

Excelsior striker **Brett Holman** is only months away from claiming Dutch citizenship as he is entering his fourth season with the second division side.

The 22-year-old has been a hit at Excelsior, and is still on loan from Dutch giants Feyenoord.

Having gained a cap for the Socceroos, Holman is hoping to secure a new contract either at the club or elsewhere in Europe.

Interest has mounted in the U.K. but until then, Holman is happy waiting for his EU passport to officially come through.

Holman was at his best on the weekend when he grabbed a brace in his side's 2-1 win over FC Omniworld.

★★★★★

Danny Tiatto is confident Leicester City can fulfil expectations and reach The Premiership this season.

Australian midfielder Tiatto believes the next few games could play a key role in determining the shape of the club's season.

"I think we've been consistent since the start of the season," Tiatto told Sky Sports News.

"The first game (a 4-1 defeat at Sheffield United) was a bit of a setback but everyone's working hard.

"We've got a really young squad. We're very ambitious and want to do well.

★★★★★

Mark Viduka wasn't the only Aussie on fire in England last week.

During the English League cup, a number of Australians were involved in what was an exciting round of fixtures.

Barnsley's **Jacob Burns** and Doncaster's **Adam Hughes** both grabbed headlines for having a belter of a match.

Burns was Barnsley's star as he scored twice against Preston North End and came up trumps in the penalty shoot-outs 5-4 going into the next round.

Adam Hughes was Doncaster's hero as he scored the winner in their 1-0 win over Wrexham.

★★★★★

Young Socceroo striker **Jay Lucas** has attracted interest from a certain Cypriot 2nd Division club managed by former Bankstown City Lions manager Andy Papoulias.

The towering striker, who had previous European stints with Southampton and Cardiff is trying to organize his EU passport in getting to sunny Cyprus.

★★★★★

Blackburn defender **Lucas Neill** served only a one-match ban following his sending-off against Tottenham last week.

Neill, who had already been booked, was red-carded for a 75th-minute challenge on Spurs substitute Edgar Davids.

Referee Dermot Gallagher had made clear in his match report to the Football Association that Neill's dismissal came as a result of a second yellow card rather than a straight red.

That meant Neill had his punishment downgraded from the mandatory three-game ban to just missing the trip to Aston Villa last Saturday where they lost 1-0.

★★★★★

Aussie striker **Danny Invincibile** says he can fill the boots of Kilmarnock's outgoing star Kris Boyd.

With Boyd on his way to Cardiff City, Invincibile declared:

"I love playing striker. I came to Killie as a more attacking player and when I have played up front I've scored a few goals.

"I'm happy about any excuse to run at players and have shots at goal. If Kris goes I don't think you can say his will be difficult boots to fill. He is a different player to the rest of us, he's basically a goalscorer.

"Steven Naismith's been fantastic at getting behind players. Colin Nish wins headers and holds the ball up really well. As long as the team is winning and scoring goals we'll be fine."

Killie thumped Livingston 3-0 last weekend with Nish hitting a hat-trick.

U17 JOEYS READY FOR PERU

National Youth coach Ange Postecoglou has named his squad of 20 players that will represent Australia at next month's FIFA U-17 World Championship in Peru.

The squad features 18 players that have previously played for the Qantas Joeys with only NSW duo Scott Jamieson and Nathan Burns yet to make their debut for the team.

Two of the squad are with English Premier League clubs - Rostyn Griffiths at Blackburn Rovers and Jamieson at Bolton Wanderers.

The squad also features one Hyundai A-league player in Sydney FC defender Wade Oostendorp, as well as Queensland striker David Williams who played for the Qantas Young Socceroos in their recent FIFA World Youth Championship campaign.

The Qantas Joeys have been dealt a tough draw and will face European Champions Turkey, South American runners-up Uruguay, as well as traditional Central American powerhouse Mexico in Group B of the 16-team tournament.

"I'm quite happy with the squad I have been able to select with all the players ready for the challenge that lies ahead," said Qantas Joeys coach Ange Postecoglou.

"There is good balance in the squad and also good depth especially in midfield and attack.

"It is a tough draw, but at the same time a good draw, with the opposition set to provide a really good challenge for us which is what going to a world championship is all about."

The squad is:

Alex Vrteski (GK) (WA), Jamie Cumming (Vic), David D'Apuzzo (NSW), Wade Oostendorp (NSW), Matthew Spiranovic (Vic), Matthew Mullen (SA), Joel Allwright (SA), Robbie Kruse (Qld), David Williams (Qld), Kaz Patafia (ACT), Daniel Miller (NSW), Daniel Ireland (GK) (NSW), Rostyn Griffiths (WA), Nathan Burns (NSW), Blake Charity (Qld), Scott Jamieson (NSW), Leigh Broxham (Vic), Shanon Lancini (GK) (Qld), Matthew Park (Vic), Brendan Maroney (NSW)

Standby players:

Tayfun Buyukoppru (NSW), Scott Gannon (SA), Jason Naidovski (NSW), Jason Trifiro (NSW), Ben Vidaic (NSW), Daniel Visevic (Vic), Scott Weidenbach (SA)

The tournament in Peru will be played entirely on artificial surfaces and the Qantas Joeys will have an 8-day camp at the Football Federation Victoria complex with the training venue allowing the team to train on a similar artificial surface to that which the team will experience in Peru.

During the camp the Qantas Joeys will play a training match against the VIS on September 4 (11am) at John Cain Memorial Park.

Qantas Joeys striker David Williams

The draw for the Qantas Joeys during the FIFA World Youth Championship is:

v Turkey
16 Sept, Lima
v Mexico
19 Sept, Lima
v Uruguay
22 Sept, Chiclayo

SBS TV coverage of the FIFA U-17 World Championship includes every Australia game Live in all states.

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS FC

U20's TRIALS
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE
2005 — 2006

The Bankstown City Lions FC is currently seeking players for NSW Premier League U20's Competition.

Trials will commence at 6:30pm Sharp, on Thursday 1/9/05 and Friday 2/9/05 and then every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for the remainder of the mouth of September.

All trials will be conducted at Jensen Park, Clapham Rd, Sefton.

For All Enquires Call
Chris Karatzis — 0417 682 120
Frank Cosentino — 0413 122 284
Email: lionsfc@ljupce.com

THE HOTTEST TICKET IN TOWN

Comment By Mark Stavroulakis

Here's a hot tip for anyone wanting to do something on the weekend, grab yourself an early A-League ticket in your state as it was quite the hot item last week.

A record breaking 70,206 fans turned up to see the first four matches of Australia's new era of football in Newcastle, Perth, Brisbane and Sydney.

It was an unbelievable feat and a football fans dream come true as young and old rocked up to each stadium in full voice, kick starting the A-League with a bang.

Poor crowd attendances that were witnessed during the Pre-season Cup were quickly forgotten about as the real game of football took centre stage and grabbed headlines in all major television, radio and newspaper outlets and it was about bloody time.

Newcastle had the pleasure of opening this year's A-League and a crowd of 13,160 witnessed the first ever match in Oz football's new era.

Starting off poorly in crowd attendances during the pre-season, the Jets did a fantastic job on the evening, even though they went down to Adelaide, football was the winner in Newcastle.

With Newcastle Knights all but finished their rugby league commitments, many first-time football followers that turned up at Energy Australia were spurred on by the impact the game had, so much so, look to see many of them return for their next home match in two weeks time against Sydney FC.

Across the other side of Australia, Perth Glory, once known for being the leaders in crowd attendances last weekend finished with 11,113, a great start, but was ironically the lowest figure of all round 1 matches.

Friday was a magnificent success for the game but Sunday was to be the day of broken records.

Queensland's Suncorp Stadium was lit ablaze with 20,725 screaming spectators soaking up the sun and fun as the Roar bounced the Knights 2-0.

The cauldron was literally on fire when Alex Brosque struck a thunderous left foot-bulldozer that rifled into the Knights net with ten minutes remaining which summed up the crazy football scenes in the Sunshine Coast.

The Roar were grinning with pure delight after they picked up the biggest ever crowd attendance in a domestic Australian football match but their cheers were short-lived when Olympic 2000 hosts Sydney went that one step further.

Dwight Yorke and the boys treated Sydney to a feast football on a balmy Sunday afternoon as 25,208 turned up to see them play out an entertaining 1-1 draw against the Melbourne Victory.

It was fitting that Yorke scored Sydney's first goal but Melbourne dominated in the chances department and were unlucky not to have spoilt the home-side's party atmosphere by stealing the three points.

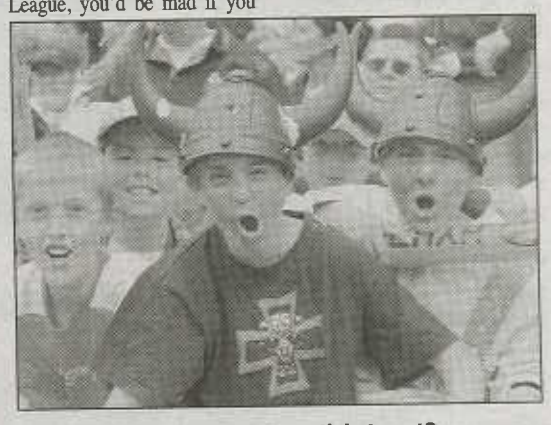
Sydney FC chairman Walter Bugno was over the moon with the club's record crowd and stated that the best was yet to come.

"It's a fantastic atmosphere here today, it really goes to show that the people of Sydney love their football.

"Look for bigger and better things to happen in the next few games but overall we at Sydney FC were very delighted with the turn-out."

So again, Australia's hottest ticket every weekend is the A-League, you'd be mad if you haven't got yours already.

Central Coast Mariners versus Newcastle Jets looks like the pick of the crowd on Sunday, may the record crowds continue to flock our football pitches and may all other codes remain silent – this is football's time!



Have you got your tickets yet?

Expressions of Interest

GRANVILLE RAGE 2006 Coaching Positions

Granville Rage Soccer and Granville and Districts Soccer Football Association invite applications for suitably qualified persons to fill the following coaching positions for season 2006:

Metropolitan League
Super Youth League
Super League

Contact:
John Haynes on 0422 861 694, or
Vic Zappla on 0418 234 768, or
Michael Briggs on 0412 009 986
Send applications to:
PO Box 55, Smithfield West, NSW. 2164
Fax: 9823 9384
Email: viczap@bigpond.com

Applications Close Friday 9th September, 2005

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FRASER PARK FOOTBALL CLUB
Season 2006
Coaches and Support Staff

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With emphasis on PLAYER DEVELOPMENT we now seek the services of highly motivated people with the same philosophy to join us on our journey.

To build on a successful season 2005 we want to fill the following positions:

Coaching Staff
- Youth League Coaches for NSW Super Youth League ages 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18.
- Goalkeeping Coach all teams.
- Elite Player Academy coaches for various ages.
- Junior Academy coaches for academy catering for ages 7 to 10.
- Coaches with suitable qualifications only need apply.
- We are also looking for up and coming coaches who want to learn, develop and gain qualifications with the club to take on assistants positions.

Support Staff
- Youth Leauge convener and managers.
- Academy managers and support staff
- Support staff in all areas

Many of the above positions come with an attractive remuneration package for the apropriate candidates.

To register your application or interest please email letter and resume direct to Football Technical Director on wsa_au@hotmail.com.
Enquiries please contact Vince Colagiuri on 0400 324432 for coaching positions, or Manuel Leon on 0407 415410 for all other positions.

Closing date 2nd September 2005

ABSW CAREER OPPORTUNITY

In the next few weeks the *Australian & British Soccer Weekly* will be advertising a part-time position for Sub-Editor in one of Australia's leading football magazines.

Until it becomes more apparent, people who have an extensive knowledge on the game, have tertiary qualifications and must have an input in both Quark Express and all Microsoft Office programs to be able to gain this new to be vacant spot.

It's a Sydney based paper thus the selected person will need to be from Sydney.

The selected person will only need to appear in the offices, two days maximum, thus being a part-time spot.

Again we do stress that you MUST be a keen supporter of the sport.

An official advertisement will appear in the paper in the next few weeks but those keen football buffs interested, could you please send your CV's early to absw@foreignlanguage.com .au in alerting your keen interest and mark it to the attention of Mark Stavroulakis – Sub Editor Postion.

Don't call us, we'll call you!

-ABSW Crew

SOCCER

2006 COACHING APPOINTMENTS MACARTHUR DISTRICT

Applicants are being sought for the following Coaching Appointments for Macarthur District representative teams;

- Metropolitan League U11s and U12s
- Girls Youth League U12s, U14s, U16s and U21s
- Boys Youth League U13s, U14s, U15s, U16s, U18s.
- Mens U20s.

We welcome applicants from both within the current Macarthur ranks and external to Macarthur.
The successful candidates will need to demonstrate:
- appropriate formal qualifications
- team building abilities
- development focus and practical success
- excellent communication skills
- professional attitude and ability to work with players
- ability to work with the Coaching Panel, Board and other coaches
- work within our Code of Conduct

Macarthur is currently and will continue to be a major Youth growth centre. The current Board is very progressive in its goals for Youth Development and achieving success for the Macarthur Region. Interest applicants should send their details indicating the positions they are interested in to;

COACH – Board of Directors Macarthur District Soccer Football Association
PO Box 951 CAMPELLTOWN NSW 2560
Fax: (02) 4628 0517 Email: mdsfa@bigpond.net.au

Queries can be directed to Rob Burns on 0418 662 903
Applications close Friday 9th September at 5.00pm

All successful candidates will be screened as required by the NSW Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998

Lia determined to fight for Victory spot

By Mark Stavroulakis

One prominent figure that was left out of last weekend's Melbourne Victory squad during their fiercely contested first round clash against Sydney FC was former Young Socceroo skipper Vince Lia.

The 19-year-old spent the weekend watching his team-mates battle on T.V. back at his hometown of Shepparton in Victoria, much to the dismay of the talented midfielder – but an injured foot thwarted his plans to debut in the A-League.

"Its something I don't want to get used to as I want to play as many games as possible for the Victory.

"I'm a full professional and I know I need to bide my time until Ernie (Merrick) gives me my chance to play in the first team."

Lia had a horrific lead-up to this year's A-League season after he strained ligaments at the top of his right foot in the last five minutes of the Young Socceroos and Netherlands clash in the U20s World Cup.

It was Australia's second match of the group stage which they unfortunately lost thrill-nil to the hosts but it was an early setback for Lia's career in the A-League with the unfortunate injury.

"At first I thought it wasn't that bad but the doctors did some tests and told me that I had strained it which meant I had to give it rest.

"It was a painful 2 month lay-off but I have been training full-on in the past two weeks."

Melbourne's input in the Young Roos squad was rather infamous as Ange Postecoglou's squad had four members including Lia in the side.

The former South Melbourne star joined his team-mates and was 100% committed in making the first match against Sydney, but it wasn't to be as Merrick decided against bringing Lia to Aussie Stadium as he was not ready yet.

"I've been training hard for the two weeks but it has been frustrating as I had to catch up to the other players who had a good pre-season run under their belts.

"I came on against Adelaide during the Pre-season cup and my foot felt fine until a slight pain was felt after the match."

With such great depth in the Melbourne squad, Lia has accepted that getting back into the starting eleven of the side is going to be no easy task.

The likes of Michael Ferrante, Kristian Sarkies, Richard Kitzbichler and Andy Vlahos are just some of the names standing in front of Lia's eyes but the determined lad from Shepparton has vowed that he will do what it takes to make that starting squad.

"I understand that it's not going to be an easy task in starting as we have a great squad with some really talented players.

"The team is equipped well in depth but as I said before, when I'm given my chance, I'll have to take it and know that it is then I have to do my all in claiming a position in the squad."

Vince has described that Melbourne will be a team to watch in this years A-League as they play an attacking style of football and that a feast of goals will be on the menu from the Melbournians.

"We've really focused on our attack and I think we boost probably the best line-up in that department in the league.

"We have an exciting group of experienced stars along with some good youngsters coming up."

Lia has signalled out both Ferrante and Sarkies as players to watch out for this season.

"Both these guys are part of our engine room and will be one of our best assets, watch for both of them to have a huge year."

Its been a personal goal for the 20-year-old to hopefully one day make a name for himself in Australia and hopefully one day establish himself as household name in this country.

Holding a two-year deal with the club, Lia is one cool customer ready to show his worth for the Victory squad – watch for him to fire for the Victory very soon.

Vince Lia: The talented midfielder is anxiously waiting his first start with the Victory

SYDNEY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Sydney United Football Club

NSW PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

COACHES REQUIRED

—— 2006 Season ——

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This is a child related position all relevant working with children checks will apply.

Please send resumè to:

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enquiry@sydneyunited.com.au

223 Edensor Rd, Edensor Park NSW 2176

WANTED

DULWICH HILL

SOCCER CLUB

Requires Youth League Coaches for the 2006 Soccer Season

DULWICH HILL SOCCER CLUB

The applicants must have all the necessary accredition

ENQUIRIES:

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PH: 0411 743 948 FAX: 9559 5752

Youth League Co-Ordinator: Brian Fong

PH: 0419 255 951 FAX: 9662 3397

engservice@astor.com.au

Socceroo legends help launch Sydney FC season

Sydney FC players lined up for a team-shoot during the kit launch

Three of Australia's most celebrated football players last week helped launch Sydney FC's inaugural assault on the Hyundai A-League with Ray Richards, Jim Fraser and David Mitchell on hand to present the squad with their season shirts at Aussie Stadium.

Richards, who was a member of the only Australian Team to go to the World Cup in 1974, was honoured to be part of the launch.

"It is a thrill to be here to be a part of something we all hope is special for football in this country," said Richards, who played 60 internationals from 1967-1975.

"The A League looks like being a very strong national competition and that can only be good for the game. I'm just thrilled I have been asked to be involved."

Fellow Socceroos Fraser and Mitchell were also on hand to present the 21-man Sydney FC squad with their strips for the inaugural season.

"The A League has been put together well and all signs are positive coming into the start of the first season," said Mitchell, who played 44 matches, scoring 15 goals in the green and gold.

"It is important for the future of football, at every level, that this is successful. A strong national competition is obviously needed to raise the profile of the game at that level but it also has spin off effects at junior level and also for the National Team."

Fraser, who was Australia's goalkeeper when the Socceroos defeated South Korea 1-0 in 1973 to win through to the World Cup, is also the Sydney FC goalkeeper coach and is excited about the start of the competition on Sunday.

"It is hard to sit back and think about it because I am involved and you have to concentrate on the job each day but I am just thrilled to be with the club (Sydney FC)," Fraser said.

"We have come together very well as a team and Pierre and Crooky have been able to make the boys hungry and that is important."

Perin exits Adelaide

By Mark Stavroulakis

With only one round of A-League fixtures completed, the competition has seen its first departure in the management ranks.

After the shock retirement of club favourite Aurelio Vidmar from the game, came the news that Adelaide United's Football Manager, John Perin, has exited the club.

Perin decided to call it quits last Wednesday, which shook up the club only days before its first clash against the Jets on Friday.

Speculation ran rife that Coach John Kosmina had a misunderstanding with Perin, were quickly dispelled by the former Socceroo striker.

"I got on well with JP (Perin).

"There was no problems there. We're not actually looking to replace him at the moment," Kosmina stated to 'The Advertiser'.

Perin left on a mutual arrangement much to the dismay of the Adelaide board who have been dealt with losing yet another South Australian icon.

"It's not ideal but these things happen. As JP said, his work commitments are fairly heavy.

"This job is a lot bigger than we envisaged at the start of the season."

At the moment, United is expected to review the football manager's job description.

"We'll look at how we can reconfigure that sort of management from a more strategic point of view', Kosmina stated.

One new idea that is currently being tabled at United is the possibility of starting up a new junior development academy which will give the state's best young players the chance to follow their dreams in hopefully taking part in the prestigious A-League competition.

"We now look at that (football manager's) role as encompassing junior development and other sorts of things as well," Kosmina ended.

Meanwhile, Trinidad & Tobago international striker Kevin Nelson has had his trial at Adelaide United extended for another week.

"He's a reasonable finisher and he gets on the end of things on the edge of the box," Kosmina told The Advertiser.

"But to make a good judgment call, to be fair on Kevin, we need to have little bit more of a look at him.

"He's a great bloke and we're going to give him a little more time."

Kosmina said Nelson was a "good physical specimen" and was happy with his fitness levels but reiterated that the club would not rush into a signing.

"We're still talking to overseas people and that is no disrespect to Kevin," Kosmina said.

"Transfer windows are closing in Britain in this week and it is quite possible that might free some more people up."

Wade Oostendorp:

The A-League's youngest player

By Mark Stavroulakis

Meet 17-year-old central defender Wade Oostendorp.

The 183cm Sydneysider has already scalped the award this year for becoming the youngest A-League player registered in Australia's elite competition.

'Bling FC' or also known as Sydney, were the side that have given Oostendorp that chance to showcase his much talked about skill and presence in their back-line.

Sydney has signed Wade on a two-year deal, which could see the youngster develop into a future prospect for this country.

Being known as the youngest player in the A-League should herald a bit of pressure to Oostendorp, the youngster however, has thought otherwise.

"No I don't think there's any added pressure about me being the youngest in the league.

"I'll take it step by step and learn as much as I can from the coaching staff and my fellow teammates.

"What I am doing is concentrating at training and hopefully in the next two seasons, get as much game time as possible under my belt."

Most players his age are playing in their own age groups against boys the same size etc, but not Wade.

Already in his career, he's had the task of marking this country's finest marquee player in Dwight Yorke and fellow Socceroo strikers Sasho Petrovski and David Zdrilic at training.

"It's a great feeling knowing that I have these guys teaching me while I'm marking them at training games.

"I learn off these guys, and I also have the guidance of players like Mark Rudan and Iain Fyfe who are giving me tips on my defensive duties."

Like so many youngsters his age, the prospect of playing overseas football did tickle Wade's interest as Dutch super club Ajax offered him trials in the Netherlands last year.

"It was brilliant, I really couldn't fault anything there. I had trials last year and the club asked me to come back earlier this year but I weighed my options and thought Sydney was the go.

"Its obviously something I wish to do down the track when I'm ready, but for now, I'd like to establish myself in Australia first."

The A-league was the main money maker in Oostendorp staying put in Australia, but it was Sydney who recognized his talents at the highly acclaimed NSWIS led by Englishman Kelly Cross.

Known as the 'guvner' to many, Cross realised the youngster's potential during the U14 Friendship games three years ago at Parklea.

"I first noticed Wade during the Friendship games in 2002. He had a lot of raw ability and I knew we were able to hone in some new skills in nurturing him as a future defender for this country.

"Yeah sure his a defender, but he can also play football too. He's got great technique, two-feet, exceptional in the air, he's very aggressive and a good tackler.

"For a young lad, he also has a great understanding of the game and has a great attitude which is something that will take him far in his football career."

Cross is no stranger to developing future Australian talent.

Under his expert guidance, players such as Mark Byrnes, Jacob Timpano, Dylan Macallister and Brett Holman to name a few played a role in the NSWIS program.

"The NSWIS program was something that helped my game out greatly. Kelly was a great coach who in my two years there, taught me many things on and off the field", Oostendorp stated to *ABSW*.

Cracking into Sydney's first team will by no means be an easy task for the youngster, but he has the advantage of having time on his side in establishing himself as a potential star in the league.

Next month will herald quite an important time for the 17-year-old, as he, along with 19 other young Australians take their part in the U17s World Cup in Peru.

"I am really looking forward to this event, it's been a dream representing my country at this level and I really cannot wait for that first game against Turkey.

"We're expecting a crowd of up to 40,000 so that in itself will be a huge achievement."

Hailing from a Dutch background, only time will tell until the name Wade Oostendorp is hoisted on-top of a list of players to watch out for in the A-League.

Just keep your eyes peeled for Sydney FC's number 18 this year.

The A-League's youngest recruit, 17-year-old Wade Oostendorp

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v
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SYDNEY OLYMPIC BACK ON THE BIG SCREEN

VIDEO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Peter Kambounias and the The Riverside Bellevue (Sydney Olympic Sporting Club) have organised a Video Night to help raise funds for Sydney Olympic Soccer Club.

Sydney Olympic fans will be able to re-live most of the great moments of the club since 1989. This is a great chance for fans to get together and enjoy some past glories as well as raise some funds for Sydney Olympic Football Club.

The details of the night are:

Date: Friday 9th September 2005
Venue: The Riverside Bellevue (Sydney Olympic Sporting Club)
64 Tennent Parade
HURLSTONE PARK
Time: 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start (sharp) concluding at 1.00am.
There will be a 30 minute intermission.
Cost: $20 entry

Food and drinks available separately at discounted prices courtesy of The Riverside Bellevue Management.

Tickets: Tickets are now available from two venues prior to the night.

- Riverside Bellevue (Sydney Olympic Sporting Club)

64 Tennent Pde, Hurstone Park) every Wednesday night from 6.30pm – 9.00pm. Ask/look for Peter Kambounias

- Helen's Florist: 77 Thompson St, Earlwood (9718 9933)

Tickets available only during business hours. Ask for Georgina or Maria.

- Tickets will also be available at the door on the night but fans are strongly encouraged to pre-purchase tickets to avoid dissapointment.

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Wednesday October 12, 19& 26 – 6pm
Saturday October 15, 22 & 29 – 12 noon

Under 13
(Coach Tony Raciti 0402 306 666)
Leichhardt Oval No 2 Mary Street, Leichhardt
Next to the Aquatic Centre
Tuesday October 11, 18 & 25 – 6pm
Saturday October 15, 22 & 29 – 9am

Under 16
(Coach Nick Consentino 0411 825 969)
Leichhardt Oval No 2 Mary Street, Leichhardt
Next to the Aquatic Centre
Thursday October 13, 20 & 27 – 6pm
Saturday October 15, 22 & 29 – 1.30pm

Under 14
(Coach Priamo Licata 0410 655 659)
Leichhardt Oval No 2 Mary Street, Leichhardt
Next to the Aquatic Centre
Tuesday October 11, 18 & 25 – 6pm
Saturday October 15, 22 & 29 – 10.30am

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Friday October 14, 21 & 28 – 6pm
Saturday October 15, 22 & 29 – 3pm

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Victorian Premier League

Cannons cruise

By Nick Dennis

The Vodafone Premier League Final Series got underway on Friday evening at Epping Stadium, with Oakleigh crushing a disappointing Fawkner-Whittlesea 3-0.

An impressive Oakleigh, who have hit top form at just the right time, progress to the semi-finals, while for Fawkner it brought an abrupt end to a season that just a couple of weeks ago had promised so much.

As befits a match-up between the competition's two highest scoring teams, the action got underway almost immediately with a quick opening goal.

For the second week in a row, Oakleigh had made a flying start, taking the lead in the second minute. Fawkner defender John Angelovski lost the ball to Oakleigh striker Juan Nilo, and the Chilean set up his strike partner Angelo Goutzioulis.

One-on-one with keeper with Steven Tilovski, Goutzioulis made no mistake to give the Cannons an ideal start.

There was almost a carbon copy of the goal just seven minutes later.

Again Angelovski was the culprit, giving away the ball to Goutzioulis who again found himself one-on-one with Tilovski. This time, however, Tilovski pulled off a great stop to rescue his team.

Oakleigh suffered a blow when Goutzioulis picked up an ankle injury in only the 17th minute.

The Cannons at least had a handy replacement in experienced striker Peter Kakos, who almost scored a few minutes later with an early touch. He got on the end of a Jim Drossos cross but just missed the target.

The first half hour continued to see Oakleigh on top of a nervous-looking Fawkner struggling to find any fluency to their play.

Fawkner's first meaningful shot didn't come until the 38th minute, a Sash Ognenovski effort from outside the box that went just over the bar.

In the second half the Fawkner defence continued to be under the hammer.

Kakos hit a difficult volley straight to the keeper in the 47th minute, then three minutes later Nick Tolios broke down the right and released Nilo who put his shot just wide.

Nilo had another chance a minute later, but his shot was saved by Tilovski.

Oakleigh almost paid for their missed opportunites when Fawkner had its best chance of the game in the 52nd minute.

Winger Tony Sterjovski seemed to have got past Oakleigh keeper Stuart Webster and had an open goal before him.

But the fallen Webster showed amazing agility to spring back to his feet and block Sterjovski's shot and a certain goal.

Fawkner coach John Markovski brought himself on to bolster an attack that had so far failed to fire.

An increased urgency entered Fawkner's play, but at the same time they were leaving themselves exposed at the back. Oakleigh seemed to be biding their time, waiting for the moment to pounce.

That moment came in the 73rd minute when Kakos did well to hold off a defender. His well-struck shot beat Tilovski to make it 2-0.

Ten minutes later Kakos finished off the contest. On the break, Nilo beat a defender, drew the keeper and then unselfishly set up Kakos to score his second.

At 3-0 down and less than ten minutes remaining Fawkner's season was all but over. Mark Tsiorlas did almost grab a consolation goal in the 87th minute for Fawkner with a stunning shot from 40 metres that went just inches over the bar.

On a sadder note for Oakleigh, an emotional Steve Panopoulos made his farewell appearance in Australia.

This week he leaves for Brazil to take up employment there. The former Championship-winning player with South Melbourne in the old NSL will join his Brazilian wife and family there, with plans to emigrate permanently.

VPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavaliers	**26**	**13**	**10**	**3**	**31**	**18**	**49**
Heidelberg United	**26**	**13**	**8**	**5**	**44**	**24**	**47**
South Melbourne	**26**	**13**	**7**	**6**	**30**	**17**	**46**
Fawkner-Whittlesea	**26**	**12**	**7**	**7**	**47**	**37**	**43**
Oakleigh Cannons	**26**	**11**	**7**	**8**	**50**	**32**	**40**
Altona Magic	**26**	**10**	**10**	**6**	**40**	**33**	**40**
Preston Lions	26	10	9	7	40	34	39
Essendon Royals	26	10	7	9	33	30	37
Melbourne Knights	26	8	9	9	29	34	33
Bulleen Zebras	26	6	10	10	22	27	28
Frankston Pines	26	7	7	12	28	35	28
Sunshine Georgies	26	6	6	14	29	47	24
St Albans Saints	**26**	**6**	**5**	**15**	**27**	**45**	**23**
Bentleigh Greens	**26**	**4**	**4**	**18**	**19**	**56**	**16**

VPL FINALS SERIES

ELIMINATION Final 1

South Melbourne 3
Altona Magic 0

ELIMINATION Final 2

Fawkner-Whittlesea 0
Oakleigh Cannons 3

QUALIFYING Final

Green Gully Cavaliers 1
Heidelberg United 1
Green Gully win 5-4 on penalties

VPL Finals Fixtures

Semi Final 1
***Heidelberg United vs Oakleigh Cannons**
Semin Final 2
***Green Gully vs South Melbourne**
***Winner goes straight to Grand Final, loser to Preliminary Final.**
***check www.soccervictoria.org.au for the times and details of this week's semi-finals**

VPL TOP SCORERS

15 goals - M Curcija (ER)
10 goals: N Marinos (HU), J Sapazovski (PL), Z Petrevski, M Tsiorlas (F-W)
9 goals: T Neceski (SGX), G Goutzioulis (OC)

Gully move closer to VPL double

Minor Premiers Green Gully won a bruising encounter with injury-depleted Heidelberg on Sunday evening, although it took a penalty shoot-out to separate the two teams.

The Qualifying Final pitted first against second, and neither team gave an inch in a tough, sometimes spiteful and not very pretty encounter, where neither keeper had much to do until the penalty shoot-out at the end.

It took ten minutes of play before we saw a clear chance at goal.

From a Green Gully corner, Cavaliers striker Nick Tsaltas scooped the ball over the bar from close range.

There was a moment of controversy in the 25th minute, after Green Gully forward Brandon Vassallo had made a bullocking run through the centre.

He looked as if he had broken free past the last line of defence, but was pulled down by Heidelberg defender Isiyan Erdogan.

Erdogan was fortunate to escape with just a yellow card, when he was the last defender between Vassallo and the goal.

In the first half Heidelberg were having the better of play, looking particularly dangerous attacking down the right wing.

However their forwards were unable to profit from the promising balls sent into the box. Green Gully were playing their familiar counter-attacking style, sitting back and waiting to catch their opponents on the break.

Tempers boiled over just before the break when Green Gully hard man, Zoran Markovski, clashed with Heidelberg striker Veton Korcarevski, causing a skirmish involving almost every player.

From the incident Markovski received a yellow card, and Korcarevski a bandage around his head.

It was probably the most dramatic moment of an otherwise uneventful half.

Heidelberg continued to have the better chances in the second half.

The breakthrough finally came in the 70th minute. Heidelberg captain Eric Vassiliadis broke down the right and whipped a cross into the box. Bill Damianos made no mistake from short range to score.

Ten minutes later Green Gully were back on level terms.

Vassallo on the edge of the box took a couple of touches to evade his defender, then put the ball in the corner of the goal to beat Lou Acevski's despairing dive.

In the remaining minutes of ordinary time, Green Gully's Andy Vargas and Heidelberg's Damianos both had chances to score from free-kicks but neither could get the winner for their team.

An additional 20 minutes of extra time was played, in which the best chance went to Heidelberg.

Veteran wing-back Fausto De Amicis played a one-two with Korcarevski on the edge of the box to get behind the defence.

However De Amicis' swerving shot went just wide.

With no further score in extra time, the game went to penalties.

Both teams' regular spot-kick takers, Damianos and Andy Vargas, each missed the opening attempts. Damianos hit the post while Vargas' shot was well saved by Acevski.

When Gully defender Dragi Nastevski ballooned his shot over the bar, Heidelberg could sniff victory.

However Nastevski was allowed to re-take his shot, and he made no mistake with the second chance.

With the penalty scoreline at 3-3, Heidelberg midfielder Tony Ouliaris had his shot saved by Pasi Schwalger.

Up stepped Tsaltas for Green Gully, and he sent the keeper the wrong way to win the match.

Green Gully are now just one game away from a Grand Final berth.

Heidelberg in contrast must now face the nervous uncertainly of sudden-death football, starting next week with Oakleigh.

By Nick Dennis

South end Altona's season

South Melbourne flexed their finals muscles with an impressive 3-0 victory over Altona in the Elimination Final on Saturday evening.

In a display that would have fellow title contenders feeling a little nervous, South put on their best performance of the season to completely play Altona off the park, and might easily have won by five or six goals.

Both teams made a nervy start, passing waywardly and surrending possession. But in the 7th minute South had the perfect tonic to settle their nerves, scoring an early goal.

A defensive error allowed South's Scott MacNicol to break clear and cross into the box. With a deft flick South skipper Vaughan Coveny laid the ball off to Fernando De Moraes and the Brazilian's sweetly-struck volley left the keeper no chance.

Altona had a half-chance in the 20th minute when left winger Pece Cergovski got past his defender and centred for Alfonso Opazo, but the Altona forward's shot was wayward.

A couple of minutes later South almost had their second. MacNicol did well to control the ball on the edge of the ball and play it over a defender's head.

MacNicol regathered the ball, struck crisply on the run, but Martin John in the Altona goal produced an acrobatic save.

Altona captain Doug Mladenovic fired in a stinging free-kick from a sharp angle, and South keeper Dean Anastasiadis did well to punch the ball away at the near post.

Anastasiadis then became creator on the half-hour mark with a long kick deep into Altona territory. Coveny won the header, playing it down to striker Robbie Cattanach in the clear. Cattanach showed good touch to lob the ball over the advancing keeper and make it 2-0.

Altona's tactics mainly centred on playing the ball deep in an attempt to get behind the South Melbourne back four.

For the most part the South defence, well-marshalled by Con Blatsis and Arthur Tsonis, were an impassable barrier. However Altona had a few chances to get a goal back in the closing stages of the first half.

Koce Delev had a double effort scrambled away by the South defence, and Cergovski from a tight angle had his shot saved.

Then in the 42nd minute, a long shot from Altona's Sash Becvinovski took a deflection and fell at the feet of Opazo.

However his shot was well blocked by Anastasiadis, and South's two-goal lead was maintained going into the break.

Ten minutes into the second half, Opazo had another chance, rounding the keeper, only for his shot to be cleared off the line by Fernando.

After that, the remainder of the second half was all South Melbourne.

In one two-minute passage of play, South had six clear goalscoring chances but a combination of off-target shooting and great keeping from John kept Altona in the game.

However eventually something had to give, and in the 63rd minute South scored their third.

Fernando put a free-kick into the box, South's man-mountain Arthur Tsonis rose highest and his firmly struck header this time gave John no chance.

Ten minutes later, Fernando almost scored a cracking goal, letting loose with a 35 metre shot that smacked against the side post.

Then substitute South midfielder Billy Natsioulas was the beneficiary of some excellent build-up work on two occasions and might have added to the score.

However his first effort was saved by John and the second when he was just a couple of metres from goal, he put wide.

South's victory earns them a double chance, as they now stand poised one game away from the Grand Final.

The John Anastasiadis-coached team already had the tightest defence in the league, and are now starting to score freely through some attractive attacking football.

It's a formidable combination that may just take them all the way to glory.

By Nick Dennis

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BRISBANE PremierLeague

Palm Beach Champions

By Glenn Davis

Palm Beach won the Brisbane premier league championship but had to wait a few hours before celebrating after a decisive 3-1 win over Taringa Rovers at Jack Speare Park on Saturday.

It was an impressive display from Palm Beach who had to wait in case Rochedale scored an avalanche of goals against Brisbane Wolves which could have denied them the title.

But any chance of Palm Beach losing the championship evaporated when Rochedale were held to a. 2-all draw by Brisbane Wolves at Underwood Park.

Palm Beach has been one of the front runners in the championship race all season and was rewarded for a strong season when they left with the three points against the younger Taringa outfit.

Rochedale needed to score at least eight goals later that night to wrest the title away from Palm Beach who controlled their game against Taringa.

The Gold Coast side never looked like losing and went ahead after 22 minutes when Matt Smith sent Daniel Fung away with a great through ball which Fung clinically put away.

Matt Hilton was proving difficult to contain for the Taringa defence who were missing Willie Tumisiime and he had a number of chances to increase the lead inside the first half hour.

Palm Beach were in control in nearly every position and Taringa had trouble putting together any serious attacks.

They conceded a penalty after half an hour which was converted by Hilton and then continued to lay siege to the Rovers goal resulting in Konomoto being unmarked at the back post and scoring the third just before half time.

However, poor Palm Beach defending saw Aaron Noble reply right on half time to put interest back into the game.

The second half was again dominated by Palm Beach with Brad Ditton stamping his class on the game with most of the attacks starting from his control and vision.

David Dodd shot over, Fung was denied by a superb save by Gerard Kelly in the Taringa goals and Ditton himself just dragged a shot wide of the post as the visitors went searching for more goals.

Try as they might Karl Herdle's side could not add to their tally and the 3-nil final result left them with anxious wait.

Herdle was full of praise for his side without knowing if they had sewn up the championship.

"We played quite well there given the poor surface and we did try and play our natural game," Herdle said.

"The boys deserve everything they get for the way they have gone about the season and we have never stopped playing good football."

Rochedale had a comfortable 2-nil lead against the Wolves at half time but two second half goals to Danny Flaskas ruined any hopes of the homeside taking the championship.

Rovers went into the game knowing that they needed to score at least eight goals to snatch the title away from Palm Beach and an expectant and tense crowd turned up to see if it could be achieved.

Rochedale started on the right note, attacking Wolves from the start and forcing Josh Sammon in the Wolves goal into some anxious moments.

Alex Panic, Greg Thomas and Ian Hutchison all had shots but Sammon and some resolute defending by Anthony Roche prevented Rochedale from scoring.

Wolves actually got the scoring started when a defender deflected a Hutchison cross into his own net.

Rovers attacked continually but found no joy until Greg Thomas scored to give the home side some hope leading into half time.

Rochedale would have headed into the break disappointed that they had not capitalised on their dominance but it would have given them a chance to plan one final assault on the title.

But it all went wrong in the second half for the home side and two goals to Flaskas made it a frustrating night for the Underwood Park side and supporters.

The first had a hint of an own goal about it after a ball was not cleared and the second ten minutes from time ensured that the Premier league title was heading to Palm Beach.

Rochedale did have their chances but their finishing and composure just let them down and Wolves did force them to compete all the way to the whistle.

In the relegation battle, University went back to first division in a 1-nil loss to Pine Rivers.

University started the first half positively with the majority of half chances going their way and did well to hold the visitors scoreless at half time.

"We were playing the ball around great. I can,t fault the player's commitment or attitude, I think they just lacked some self-belief," said Uni coach Glen Volker.

"Our plan was to play how we usually play, get the ball forward and set ourselves up well."

Pine Rivers stepped up the pace in the second half and eventually scored with 15 minutes remaining through Neil Reed, having his first start at centre full-back for the Premier side.

He capped a good performance tapping in from a corner kick that came to him via the cross bar.

Captain coach Clayton Koch caused many problems for University when he came on as substitute.

"Koch made a bit of an impact when he came on which changed the second half but we still dominated in patches," Volker said.

"In the second half we changed the shape around to attack and try to win the game and it didn't quite come off but we had to have a shot.

"It's the story of our season really. We didn't take our chances although we played well and let in one goal through a goalmouth scramble.

"I was gutted when the goal went in but we should have won against Mitchelton, we shouldn't have let Wolves score three goals in 15 minutes and we should have beaten East's.

"We had our opportunities to get ourselves out of trouble and we didn't take them and that's the difference in Premier League to Division One.

"We want to just get over this and then get back to pre-season and see who we,ve got next year."

Koch was happy with the win but will be look for a better performance in coming weeks.

"We played pretty ordinary in the first half. They had more of the play but didn't take their half chances and we had a couple of chances that we didn't take either but they definitely had the better of the first half," he admitted.

"Now we have to pick ourselves up for the Cup Final against Palm Beach next weekend and I will be looking for an improved performance there to start."

In other games, Brisbane Strikers downed Mitchelton 2-0, Souths had a comfortable 3-1 win over Toowoomba while Brisbane City thrashed Easts 3-0.

BILL TURNER CUP and BILL TURNER TROPHY Results

Bill Turner Cup Quarter Finals

Westfields Sports 1 Hunter Sports 0, The Hills Sports 1 Cherrybrook Tech 0, John Paul College, Brisbane 1 Kirwan Townsville 0, Edmund Rice College, Wollongong 6 Carroll College 1.

Bill Turner Girls Trophy Quarter Finals

The Hills Sports 1 Westfields sports 0, Cavendish Road, Brisbane 4 Toormina 0, Hunter Sports 2 Kurri Kurri 0, Bulli Bathurst 0.

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Tuesday 6th September
* 3.00pm 1ST Semi-Final — Bill Turner Trophy (girls)
CAVENDISH ROAD S.H., Brisbane v HUNTER SPORTS HIGH
* 4.30pm 2ND Semi-Final — Bill Turner Trophy
THE HILLS SPORTS HIGH v BULL HIGH, Illawarra
* 6.00pm 1ST Semi-Final — Bill Turner Cup (Boys)
JOHN PAUL COLLEGE, Sth Brisbane v WESTFIELDS SPORTS
* 7.30pm 2ND Semi-Final — Bill Turner Cup
THE HILLS SPORTS v EDMUND RICH HIGH, Illawarra
Wednesday 7th September
* 3.00pm Third/Fourth Place Play-Off Bill Turner Trophy
* 4.15pm Third/Fourth Place Play-Off Bill Turner Cup
* 5.45pm **GRAND FINAL** Bill Turner Trophy
Lindsay Hewison Shield
* 7.30pm **GRAND FINAL** Bill Turner Cup
Terry Hampton Shield

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WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Illawarra's Premier League

In 1977 the then association president George Naylor and his Board of Directors restructured the long running local football competitions in a bold move to improve overall playing standards and general ground facilities plus field surface.

Looking back since the start of organised association football around the South Coast with humble beginnings in 1903 – actually kick-off was much earlier with the Balgownie Rangers Soccer Club established in 1883 – from a handful of clubs growing to a powerful organization of 26 first grade teams in two divisions – first division of 12 teams, 2nd division 14 teams plus a third division made up of under 18's. Also three local teams played in the new Sydney State League.

In 1976, a sub-committee suggested to form the IDSA (Illawarra District Soccer Association) Premier League to kick-off in 1977 and after long discussions the members decided in favour voting 40 to 10 against.

Three competitions were organised in Premier League and 1st and 2nd division which were combined then in 1982 into the Conference League and now known as the First Division.

The inaugural league champion in 1977 was Fairy Meadow and the latest in 2004 was Port Kembla.

At present Premier League and the First Division run both with 14 teams, three grades – in total 84 teams (first, reserves, Youth Grade) or around 4200 players.

Improvements in all aspects have been impressive, a far more professional approach in coaching staff, playing standard and most important in ground development have been achieved.

All 28 present IFA member clubs have their own sports ground, some developed to real show pieces with floodlights for night games.

For Illawarra's 26 Junior Soccer clubs and youngsters turning to senior football, the opportunities are available for them to excel.

So far the now known City Coast Premier League has an excellent reputation in the State even attracting a number of Sydney State League players, not shy to travel the distance playing with well run football clubs and quality players.

In 2007 the Premier League completes 30 years running and the IFA is inviting members to express their views of possible alternatives, improvements, continue present format or review various other aspects.

Modern times demand progress – better football and creating increasing attractions for the fans. The style of football is being influenced by new talents coming through from youth grades and outside the area – a continuing process in all codes.

IFA Football Results

Port Kembla v South Coast United 1:2, Cringila Lions v Warilla Wanderers 2:1, Dapto v Wollongong Olympic 2:1, Picton Rangers v Tarrawanna 0:3, Albion Park White Eagles v Balgownie Rangers 8:1, Bulli v Kemblawarra 0:1, Coniston Lions v Dandaloo 0:4

dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis

Sydney FC creates history

In only the second time in the SCG's history, Sydney FC asked the SCG Trust to open its gates which let in an estimated 1600 fans through for free.
12,500 tickets were pre-sold before the Sydney clash but thousands waited in massive queues outside the stadium when the game kicked off.
The first time the gates were open was way back in the 1970s on the opening night of the World Series Cricket.
It's also understood that Trust members said it was the largest "walk-up" attendance to a game in any sport at both Aussie Stadium and the SCG.
Let the records continue to fall.

Muscat gains 'boo boy' tag

Who would have thought that Melbourne Victory skipper Kevin Muscat would have gained the tag of being a boo boy for opposing sides.
Muscat was at his best, literally, as he earned the wrath of many Sydney FC supporters on a number of occasions as he scuffled with Northern Irishman Terry McFlynn.
With chants of 'Muscat's a W$#%^@' in the terraces, the fact that he was able to stay on the pitch only receiving a yellow card, deserves a huge pat on the back for the former Socceroo.

Breeze wins in the yellow tickets

Referee Matthew Breeze picked up this week's award for dishing the most cautions in a match – five in fact in the Roar v Knights clash.
Breeze was taking no nonsense from either side's rough tactics as he let them fly at both clubs in what was a great fought contest between the two.
Ben Williams and Mark Shield finished up the week giving away four cautions while Peter O'Leary was rather quiet in the booking department scene launching only two yellow tickets.
No red cards were witnessed but for those of you who are counting how many Muscat will get this year, his tally started on 1 last week!

Rudan lets loose

It's quite rare that you see a coach these days sub their skipper.
This did happen in the form of Sydney FC skipper Mark Rudan.
With 20 minutes to play, Rudan was given his orders by coach Pierre Littbarski to sit on the cold bench at Aussie Stadium as Young Socceroo defender Jacob Timpano took his spot.
Much to the amazement of everyone in the crowd, Rudan was not happy with the decision so much so, he stormed straight to the bench and sat as far away as possible from Pierre.
Hmm, do we sense a hint of hostility already in the Sydney FC camp?

Roar better than Broncos

One amazing statistic to have come out of the Roar versus Knights game was the fact that the 20 thousand plus crowd at Suncorp was better than that of when Rugby League side the Brisbane Broncos first joined the league fraternity in '1988.
The Broncos had around 17,000 at their first ever league match in Brisbane while the Roar had three thousand more last weekend in football's reign over the pineapple!

Route One Glory

Was it just me or were the Glory playing that famous English old fashioned style of route one football last Friday night?
In almost identical scenes, the Glory had defenders Jaime Harnwell and Ante Kovacevic hoofing high balls to target man Brian Deane, who still looked as though he was jet-lagged from his trip!
Hopefully coach Steve McMahon has other tricks up his sleeve rather than the obvious.
Then again, big 'Deano' does stand at a good six foot three!

IEMMA MEETS THE KILLER

Morris pays tribute to Muscat

Prior to the Sydney FC-Melbourne Victory clash, new NSW Premier Morris Iemma was one of the main dignitaries present at Aussie Stadium.

Shown shaking hands of both sides before the match, Iemma had the tough task of being acquainted with one of Australia's roughest ever defenders in Kevin Muscat.

Iemma would have witnessed the hurl of abuse good old Muscat received from the Sydney faithful which I'm pretty sure was nothing compared to his days as a Millwall player.

You can be the judge in filling in the gaps as to what the pair are saying!

Muscat's going to be great value this year for not only the Victory, but the A-League as well.

Consistency is the key now

Well wouldn't you know – seventy thousand plus fans turned up to witness football's new thing called the A-League and by golly was it a hit.
Fans from Perth, Newcastle and especially in Queensland and Sydney were gripped with A-League fever as football was the talk of the town in each of these states.
The word curious fans came to mind after witnessing many of them during the Sydney FC-Melbourne Victory clash.
Many rugby league, union and AFL minded people made their ways to Aussie Stadium last Sunday, wanting in on seeing what all this A-League hype was all about.
Ninety-minutes later, all is sure that they weren't let down in anyway as the game was a blockbuster and the stadium was just superb.
Fans chanting, whistling and yelling out their favourite players names brought coincidences to that of the leagues across Europe.
At one point, fans were heaven scent after Dwight Yorke headed Sydney in front just before half-time.
'The Cove', or also known as Sydney FC's legion of dedicated fans, went in hysterics as Yorke jumped with glee along with his fellow team-mates putting football straight back on the map.
Where to from now?
Well folks, those of you who had the chance to have grabbed a game over the weekend would have seen the enormous difference between that and what we were used to back in the dark old ages of the National Soccer League.
Apart from the crowd attendances that were up 100%, the level of football was also a step above the rest.
Players from all sides have lifted their games, many former Socceroo stars and new rising players made their debuts in stunning fashion last week.
Excitement and action were seen in all four games last week which proved to be value for money for all fans.
It is now up to the fans to keep the level of interest going.
The media has so far done a great job in keeping fans up to date whether it be via radio, television or newspapers, everyone now knows a bit about the world game and more importantly, the A-League.
FoxSports' coverage on the games was brilliant, 4 Live Australian football matches was something of a rare sight back in the days!
Melbourne has its first chance to cement itself as yet another record breaking side in terms of crowd attendances when it hosts Perth Glory this weekend.
As does the New Zealand Knights who take on hot-shots Sydney FC.
South Australia will taste its first A-League experience also this Friday as Adelaide take on the Roar.
The pick of the bunch would have to be the Mariners and Jets on Sunday.
This new rivalry is sure to bring out the crowd so look to see yet more records broken this weekend in what will be an interesting round of football.
"Its football but not as you know it" – so far, the slogan is living up to this expectation; bring more A-League football fever on!

An aerial view of Aussie Stadium last Sunday afternoon where Sydney FC took on the Melbourne Victory in what was a brilliant afternoon for football in Australia

Recchia welcomes Yorke

No doubt the Sydney FC hierarchy were left a little flustered in the opening stages of the match last week when only in the first few minutes of the match, star signing Dwight Yorke looked as though he picked up a bad injury.
Replays showed that Victory youngster Carl Recchia greeted Yorke in the finest of fashions with an elbow to the chest giving him a welcome to Australia greeting, the Victorian way of course!
By the way, Yorke was not harmed in the incident and he did jump on the Boeing 747 plane that departed for Trinidad on Monday for his country's crucial World Cup qualifier.

Jets sign 'Joey' Johns!

Yes folks, that's right, Newcastle Knights legend Andrew Johns has signed with the Newcastle Jets this season – well only for 1 match that is.
Joey Johns was part of the spectacular entertainment build-up at Energy Australia Stadium as he barracked for the home-side in their loss to the might of Adelaide United on Friday night.
Johns was quite a player in the round ball game as a junior a few years back with rumours stating that he could have mad a great central midfielder!

My word - what Screamers!

Noel Spencer and Alex Brosque take a bow, for you guys were the pick of the goals last weekend.
Spencer rattled the Glory with his stunning 40-yard screamer that would have made every highlight show in Europe!
Meanwhile, Brosque showed why he still one of Australia's richest young talents after his lethal left-bomb tore apart Danny Milosevic's net.
You can also count King Dwight's brilliant header and Archie's one too that summed up a great weekend of Australian football.

NSW dominates Joeys squad

As you would have already seen by now (page 2 for full details), this year's U17 Joeys squad has been dominated by several lads from NSW.
With the World Cup set for next month in Peru, Ange Postecoglou selected his squad that will take on the might of Turkey, Mexico and Uruguay.
Full marks should go to NSWIS coach Kelly Cross who played an instrumental role in developing the seven youngsters from NSW – one in particular to look out for is the A-League's youngest player in Wade Oostendorp.
He and star QAS striker David Williams are the pick of the bunch for the Aussies!

Roos to take centre stage

It's come at a fitting time that our very own Socceroos start their quest for Germany 2006 as they entertain the Solomon Islands this Saturday night.
Aussie Stadium had 25 thousand spectators for the first A-League clash last weekend, with a Socceroo squad boosting the likes of Cahill, Viduka, Kewell, Bresciano and Schwarzer, surely a full house sign should be put up.
Guus Hiddink's men all arrived today (Tuesday) from their domestic leagues in Europe and at this stage, all will play a vital role in both Sydney and Honiara in closing the gap on the journey to Germany.
A-League, Socceroos qualifying for the World Cup, what more do we football fans want, our football fix is certainly being heeded!

Adelaide predict sell-out

United chief Michael Petrillo is already expecting a sell-out for the club's first A-League home clash against Queensland Roar this Friday.
Ticket sales have reached around 9000, 15,000 are expected to attend Hindmarsh.

A-LEAGUE

A-League Round 1

Veart guns down hapless Jets in opener

Newcastle fail to impress at Energy headquarters

By Mark Stavroulakis and wire services

Adelaide striker Carl Veart sank the Jets with his 19th-minute headed goal in front of a 13,000-strong Newcastle crowd to earn the South Australians the first ever win in the new A-League competition.

Both sides had several scoring chances in the second half but failed to find the back of the net, and Adelaide held on for a deserved victory.

Adelaide coach John Kosmina praised the performance of Veart up front, but was delighted with the display put on by his entire team.

"I though he [Veart] was superb for us tonight," Kosmina said.

"But tonight we had 11 good individuals who actually worked well as a team as well."

"To come away from here with a result like this was great."

United captain Ross Aloisi was ecstatic to lead his side to victory in the first ever A-League game.

"This is the beginning of a new era. We created history tonight by winning the first A-League game, away from home when no-one expected us to win," Aloisi said.

"We believe in ourselves, and we showed tonight that we can play good soccer - or football."

Jets manager Richard Money said he expects his side to improve in the coming weeks, with key players such as Ned Zelic and Ante Milicic getting some much needed match fitness.

"I though the best team won. They came and played very cleyerly, got a lot of men behind the ball and countered very effectively. It was a good away performance from them," Money said.

"Our next home game is against Sydney, and that will pull the fans out of their armchairs, and then the team has another chance to produce what we know it's capable of."

Before the match kicked-off, it was only fitting that the crowd stood up for a minutes silence in honour of the late Socceroo legend Johnny Warren who was no doubt watching from above, the A-League's debut match.

Another interesting aspect of the pre-match hype was the apperance of Newcastle Knights hero Andrew Johns, who was a special guest at the match and wished the Jets the best of luck as did local champion surfer Mark Richards.

Newcastle United's English striker Alan Shearer, yes that's right, Alan Shearer, made a guest appearance at Energy Australia Stadium sending his greeting to the home side, but it was of course via sattelite.

The visitors dominated from the early part of the game and took the lead when Veart headed home the opening goal of the new competition, getting on the end of a pin-point Aloisi cross in the 19th minute.

Veart's clever run split both Alan Picken and Jade North to slot in the first ever A-League goal.

Newcastle then immediately put Adelaide under pressure at the other end of the park, with two quick shots by Mark Bridge and Matthew Thompson from close range being parried away by United keeper Daniel Beltrame; Adelaide defender Michael Valkanis was then forced to clear a third shot off the line.

At half-time, Kosmina rallied his troops for an even better second half, even though the match was dominated by a high foul count rate.

The South Australians looked as though they did not miss Chinese international Qu Shengqing much, who pulled out of the match due to a knee injury as both Veart and Travis Dodd were menacing for the away side.

Veart missed a golden opportunity to score again midway through the second period, having his shot blocked after receiving a neat pass 10 metres from goal.

Newcastle also looked lively in attack, with a header from central defender Allan Picken picking out Beltrame in the 75th minute, and a well-struck shot from Richard Johnson doing likewise moments later.

Jets goalkeeper Liam Reddy kept the hosts in the game with an excellent reflex save to keep out Aloisi inside the final 10 minutes, but the home side couldn't find the all-important equaliser in the game's dying moments.

Jets star striker Ante Milicic was kept rather quiet all night as Adelaide defender Kristian Rees did his part in keeping the injured attacker out of the match.

Scenes of frustartion hit the 30-year-old who was bundled over numerous times from the tenacious Adelaide defence, no doubt a tactic Kosmina issued to his players before the match.

It was also a long night for on-loan Jets defender Picken who was left short a number of times in the home-sides back-line which led to a number of Adelaide's chances.

Former Socceroo sweeper Ned Zelic failed to make an impact on the match as the side failed to utilize the star signing.

Nick Carle was also left licking his lips as he had a couple of stray shots but the former Stallions star failed to live up to his playing expectations.

Best for the home side was the hard-working efforts of returning Australian midfielder Richard Johnson who battled hard throughout the match while for the away side, Veart, Dodd and the lively presence of pint-sized midfielder Lucas Pantelis stood out as key stars.

An amazing 33 fouls were committed during the game with referee Peter O'Leary brandishing only two cautions.

Newcastle Jets	0
Adelaide United	1

The Adelaide United side celebrate their victory over the Jets – and also the first ever win in A-League history

Jets striker Mark Bridge (left) contests with Angelo Costanzo of the ball during an aerial challenge on Friday night

Who's Hot:

He may be 35-years-old but by gosh did Adelaide United striker **Carl Veart** run like a 20-year-old on Friday night.

Like the typical marksman he is, Veart chased and harrassed the entire Newcastle defence and embarrassed them on many occassions with his smart runs inside the box.

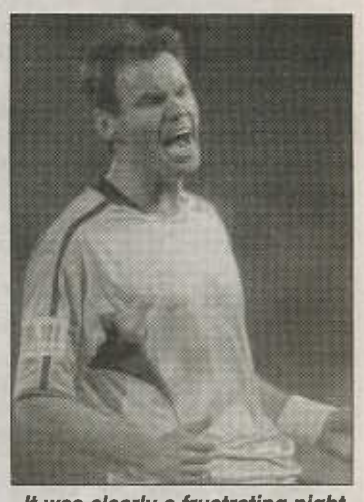
He equalled his performance with a precise header to gift Adelaide their first three points of the season minus his strikepartner in Qu Shengqing.

Who's Not:

It was his first real hit-out in Australia's elite competition but Jets defender **Alan Picken** struggled at times to keep United strikers Carl Veart and Travis Dodd at bay.

On many occassions he was left ball watching, resulting in a number of Adelaide chances, one which Veart scored due to his and Jade North's lack of communication.

Currently on a 3-month loan, Picken will need to be at his uptmost best against the Mariners pairing of Stewart Petrie and Tom Pondeljak this weekend to keep his position in tact.



It was clearly a frustrating night for Jets star striker Ante Milicic

GAME STATS

NEWCASTLE JETS 0

Ground: Energy Australia Stadium.
Crowd: 13,160. Referee: Peter O'Leary

Newcastle Jets: Liam Reddy, Jade North, Craig Deans, Ned Zelic ©, Richard Johnson, Matt Thompson (Labinot Haliti 66'), Ante Milicic, Nick Carle, Paul Kohler (Steve Eagleton 46'), Mark Bridge (Stuart Musialik 85'), Alan Picken.

ADELAIDE UTD 1
(CarlVeart 19')

Adelaide United: Daniel Beltrame, Richard Alagich, Kristian Rees, Angelo Costanzo, Michael Valkanis, Ross Aloisi ©, Lucas Pantelis (Matthew Kemp 63'), Carl Veart, Louis Brain (Chad Bugeja 87'), Travis Dodd, Adam Van Dommele

Cautions: L Brain (AU), C Deans (NJ).

Player Ratings on page 22

A-LEAGUE

A-League Round 1

MARINERS SCUPPER PERTH PARTY

Spencer strike candidate for 'Goal of the Year'

By Richard Kreider

Despite the pre-match pyrotechnics firing Perth football into a new era, the spark was found wanting from their team, Perth Glory last Friday night, who were defeated by one of the best goals ever seen at Members Equity Stadium.

The 66th minute, 35 metre rising exocet from Noel Spencer, was the only real highlight in a game that struggled to ignite the passions of the 11,113 in attendance.

It was a second victory inflicted on the Perth side by the Mariners, following their victory by the same score in the recent Pre-Season Cup grand final.

"We didn't deserve to win; we didn't deserve to get anything out of the game," said Glory coach Steve McMahon.

"When you start in second gear, it's difficult to get out of it," he said.

"It's probably more disappointing tonight because we were at home."

Meantime, Mariners boss Lawrie McKinna was understandably thrilled to have come away from the West with maximum points.

"I've been here many times over the years and I think I've only won once," said McKinna. "So, to come here anytime in the season and get three points is fantastic."

A post-mortem in the Glory camp will reveal the game was lost on a lack of belief, a dearth of innovation and being conquered by former Glory boys Andre Gumprecht and Tom Pondeljak in the middle-third.

With so much hinging on the competitions' success, it was certainly not the right way to start the season for the last team to win a National League Championship.

"It was the right stage, the right setting, it was a perfect night to play football and the crowd were fantastic," said McMahon. "The razzamatazz was there. the hype was there.

"It just seemed to be after the Lord Mayor's Show a little bit."

Glory fielded their marquee player for the first time, former English Premier League striker Brian Deane.

The tall 37-year old striker had only arrived from England earlier in the week and could only show glimpses of his scoring skills. .

Both sides showed they were in an attacking frame of mind right from the opening exchanges.

Bobby Despotovski fired a 7th minute free-kick from the edge of the box straight into the Central Coast wall before Pondeljak skied a Damien Brown short corner over the Perth crossbar three minutes later for the visitors.

A cleared Glory corner taken by livewire Billy Celeski in the 13th minute fell to the unmarked Henry Fa'Arodo directly in front of John Crawley's goal but the Solomon Island international kicked at thin air instead of the ball.

Despotovski should have put his side ahead three minutes further on when a free-kick was volleyed delightfully by Deane into the run of the seasoned forward but he scuffed his finishing touch just a couple of metres out from the goal.

Next, it was the Mariners turn to threaten, by way of a 20th minute Gumprecht centre.

Stewart Petrie was on the end of the cross with a diving header, which soared just past the post.

Central Coast should have had a goal on the board in the 27th minute after Jason Petkovic had punched a Brown corner into his own net.

However, much to everyone's surprise, and to Glory's relief, referee Ben Williams observed an infringement inside the area.

"I watched the replay a few times as I'm sure the crowd did, and it was a good goal to me, said McKinna.

Glory's best move of the first forty-five minutes came in stoppage time, when the combination of Despotovski, Deane and Fa'Arodo closed with Celeski shooting straight at the Central Coast keeper.

The second half started with the explosive Adrian Caceres coming on for Fa'Arodo but the ex-Wycombe Wanderers attacking midfielder failed to fire.

The winning goal came in the 66th minute from a fairly innocuous throw-in to midfielder Noel Spencer close to the halfway line.

The ex-Northern Spirit player swivelled on the ball, tapped it forward a few metres before releasing a sweetly-struck shot goalwards, from all of 35 metres.

Petkovic was well beaten as the ball soared between his left hand and the stanchion area of the goal.

It was a breathtaking conversion.

Try as they might, the Perth side couldn't find an equaliser in the remaining time available. Much of the credit can go to Mariners defender Michael Beauchamp who celebrated his Socceroo call-up with a rock-solid display in the backline, alongside the equally hard working Andrew Clark and Alex Wilkinson.

Perth substitute Hiroyuki Ishida was handed the best chance in the 78th minute when he rushed a low, left-side centre from Celeski over Crawley's crossbar.

GLORY	Perth Glory	0
	Central Coast Mariners	1

Solomon Island's star Henry Fa'Arodo (centre) is given the Central Coast greeting by defenders Alex Wilkinson (left) and Michael Beauchamp (right)

Who's Hot:

A breathtaking second-half 30 metre strike from **Noel Spencer** was worth every cent of the admission fee.

Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna labelled it as being much more special than that of the Mark Viduka striker for Middlesbrough against Birmingham last week.

"I know the talk of the week was Viduka's second goal, but wait until people see Noel's, it was a screamer".

Who's Not:

The Perth Glory midfield of **Simon Colosimo, Billy Celeski, Steve McMahon Jnr** and **Scott Miller** went AWOL that night.

All will need to be at their very best against a full strength Melbourne Victory this week as the Glory hope to steal a point or even more away from home.

Glory's Brian Deane takes a fall against Mariners defender Michael Beauchamp (right)

Stewart Petrie (centre) celebrates with Andrew Clark (right) and Damien Brown (left) in the Mariners stunning victory in Perth

GAME STATS

PERTH GLORY 0

Ground: Members Equity Stadium.
Crowd: 11,113. Referee:Ben Williams

Perth Glory: Jason Petkovic (gk); Simon Colosimo (Nick Ward 80'), Jamie Harnwell (c), Steve McMahon Jnr, Scott Miller (Hiroyuki Ishida 63'), Bobby Despotovski, Ante Kovacevic, Jamie Coyne, Billy Celeski, Brain Deane, Henry Fa'Arodo (Adrian Caceres 46')

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS ...1
(Noel Spencer 66')

Central Coast Mariners: John Crawley (gk); Noel Spencer (c), Michael Beauchamp, Andrew Gumprecht, Dean Heffernan, Tom Pondeljak, Damien Brown (John Hutchinson 90'), Stewart Petrie, Andrew Clark, Matthew Osman, Alex Wilkinson

Cautions: A Kovacevic (PG) 37',B Celeski (PG) 74', A Wilkinson (CCM) 20', A Gumprecht (CCM) 57'.

Player Ratings on page 22

A-LEAGUE

A-League Round 1

Queensland Roar into A-League

Brosque thunderbolt steals the show

By Glenn Davis

Queensland Roar got top marks both on and off the field when it inflicted a 2-nil win over New Zealand Knights in front of a record crowd at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday.

The Roar made an impressive start to the inaugural A-League season attracting the biggest opening round crowd of 20,725 fans.

And in a mad rugby league city, the Roar's crowd was bigger than what the Brisbane Broncos attracted to their national rugby league debut in 1988 when it pulled 17,451 fans at the same venue.

Queensland Roar coach Miron Bleiberg was delighted with the result but more importantly what it could do for the future of the code in Queensland.

"What a day," said Bleiberg.

"Exactly as we wanted and dreamed about. I've had a day to remember and I've been a round for a long time.

"Sometimes I feel like a politician. I promise but I can't always deliver.

Bleiberg did not say, but he could well have been recalling the days of when he was last in charge of a national league side, Brisbane United, before he was sacked in the 1980's.

Queensland Roar skipper Chad Gibson will never forget the experience.

"It was the most amazing experience I have every had as a professional footballer," Gibson said.

"It was breathtaking to play in front of those supporters.

"It was an amazing day for Australian football and particularly for football in Queensland."

Socceroo Alex Brosque who broke the deadlock with an 80th minute gem was ecstatic with the win.

"Our shooting was all over the place but once New Zealand's big guys started to tire we opened them up," he said.

The Roar dominated the match and could easily have doubled the scoreline.

The home side treated the visitors cautiously in the opening few minutes sparring at their opponents like a boxer in the early rounds of a title fight.

The chants of "Queensland, Queensland" began to lift the Roar while a Mexican wave circled the stadium.

New Zealand's tall timber caused some headaches for the Roar early on until the last 20 minutes of the opening period when the Roar had three chances to score before the interval.

In the 25th minute midfielder Jonathon Richter, who was easily the man of the match, sent in an early cross for Matt McKay whose glancing header sailed wide.

Brosque was then given an opportunity three minutes later but was denied by the lanky leg of Kiwi defender Danny Hay who smothered the shot.

Within a minute of Bosque's attempt, Richter struck a low shot from 18 metres which was well saved by the Knights' keeper Danny Milosevic.

Although New Zealand had a superior height advantage, they only looked dangerous on set pieces which the home side was able to nullify.

The Roar started the second half where they left off with another chance falling to Richter in the 53rd minute before Bleiberg made the first of three changes bringing on striker Michael Baird for Royce Brownlie.

Two minutes after the change, Brosque had a great chance to score the opening goal but struck a 25 metres shot wide after pouncing on a loose ball.

Warren Moon and Korean star Tae-Yong Shin came on within minutes for the injured Karl Dodd and McKay and the changes caught the Knights by surprise as the homeside took greater control.

Shin missed the simplest of chances in the 74th minute in front of an open goal only a metre from the line.

Richter fired in a perfect cross to the unmarked Shin who appeared to stumble and was on his hands and knees with no-one in goal but unable to get a touch.

However, it was only a matter of minutes when Brosque stamped his name on the game curling a left foot shot into the top corner of the net after pouncing on a ball off Baird who took on the defence.

The Knight's looked to have hit back three minutes later when striker Sean Devine glanced a header home but was ruled by referee Matthew Breeze to have fouled Roar keeper Tom Willis.

Baird ended the nightmare for New Zealand four minutes from normal time when he capitalised on a poor back pass and slipped his shot past Milosevic.

Knights' coach John Adshead refused to criticise the decision without looking at replays of the disallowed goal, but at first glance thought the goal looked legitimate.

Adshead was disappointed with the result but was happy with his side's effort.

"Defensively we played well. We came here to frustrate them and I thought if we could hang in there things would change in the last 20 minutes," he said.

"Their first goal was terrific but it hurts now because the second goal came from a mistake."

Queensland Roar	2
New Zealand Knights	0

Winners are grinners – QLD Roar's 2-0 victory over the NZ Knights have them on-top of the A-League ladder

Pure excitement grips Queensland's Jontl Richter (right) as he hugs goalscorer Michael Baird who seems to have had a problem with his kit!

Roar skipper Chad Gibson (left) fends off Knights striker Sean Devine

Who's Hot:

The two smallest men on the park, Matthew McKay and Massimo Mudocca were superb for the Roar but the man of the match was wide midfielder **Johnathan Richter** who was busy in attack and defence and continually made inroads against the Kiwis.

Who's Not:

New Zealand's Danny Hay and Neil Emblen were their best but the visitor's defence leaked on many occasions. New Zealand missed James Tambouras when he went off and his replacement **Zenon Caravella** failed to fill his shoes.

Game Stats

QUEENSLAND ROAR 2
(Alex Brosque 80', Michael Baird 86')

NZ KNIGHTS 0

Ground:Suncorp Stadium. Crowd: 20,725.
Referee: Matthew Breeze

QLD Roar Tom Willis (gk); Karl Dodd (Warren Moon 58'), Remo Buess, Chad Gibson (c), Josh McCloughlan, Massimo Murdocca, Royce Brownlie (Michael Baird 52'), Jonathan Richter, Matt McKay (Tae-Yong Shin 63'), Hyuk-Su Seo, Alex Brosque

NZ Knights: Danny Milosevic (gk); Darren Bazeley, Ronnie Bull (Steve Fitzsimmons 83'), John Tambouras (Zenon Caravella 67'), Danny Hay (c), Neil Emblen, Ben Collett, Sean Devine, Joshua Maguire (Xiaobin Zhang 75'), Joshua Rose, Jeremy Christie

Cautions: R Brownlie (QR) 16', K Dodd (QR) 35', M Baird (QR) 86', W Moon (QR) 93', D Bazeley (KFC) 65'

Player Ratings on page 22

A-League Round 1

ARCHIE SILENCES BOISTEROUS CROWD

25,000 plus supporters greet new A-League in Sydney

By Peter Damalas

The football family welcomed thousands of new supporters as Aussie Stadium played host to over 25,000 supporters keen to catch a first official glimpse of A-League glamour side Sydney FC.

If ever the governing body and club officials were in need of affirmation following an exhaustive marketing campaign, Sunday evening was the time- and they were not disappointed.

Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the first round fixture was the atmosphere generated by the crowd, which was something akin to the noise and vibe created during Rugby League State of Origin, Rugby Union Super 12 or home matches of the Sydney Swans.

On the pitch, the well coached Melbourne Victory side dominated proceedings, and by Ernie Merrick's admission, should well and truly have wrapped up their first three points of the season.

Speedy striker Archie Thompson was served up with a number of chances, and took one in the second half. The current Socceroo (who is likely to play a role in Australia's World Cup qualifier this Saturday evening at the same venue) overshadowed his more illustrious opposite in Dwight Yorke.

The man everyone came to see obliged by scoring Sydney FC's inaugural A-League goal, stooping to conquer. Right-back Andrew Packer overcame Victory captain Kevin Muscat, playing on the left hand side of defence, and sent in a cross for Yorke, who dived and angled his header beyond the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic.

Pure class.

The smiling assassin had struck.

But it could have been an entirely different scenario had the crossbar not intervened in the home side's favour.

Thompson volleyed a cross from the right, and the looping ball struck the woodwork and rebounded into safety.

Up front, the former Carlton and Marconi player combined well with the larger Daniel Allsopp, with Andy Vlahos also offering support.

It was fortunate for the late arriving crowd that the critical moment of the first half occured towards the end of the 45 minutes.

Chairman Walter Bugno was pleased to announce during the interval that the match saw the highest walk-up attendance (in excess of 10,000) of any event at the Moore Park complex (Sydney Cricket Ground included).

This resulted in the gates being opened and over 1,000 people granted free admission, only the second time that this has happened (the first was at the beginning of World Series Cricket in the late 1970s).

The investments, marketing and build-up work had definitely paid off.

Into the second half, and Melbourne continued to plough away at the Sydney goal- the home side rather neglected playing their possession football.

"We forgot to play soccer. We were not really good in the centre and we made too many mistakes in building up," was Littbarski's summation of the second half.

The quietly spoken German had adapted his formation to accomodate Yorke and the two centre forwards Sasho Petrovski and David Zdrilic, as well as playmaking duo Ufuk Talay and Steve Corica.

"We were losing ball and not closing down fast enough," Littbarski commented after the match.

While Thompson continued his personal duel with goalkeeper Clint Bolton, forcing a good save in the 58th minute, Yorke and others were becoming frustrated.

The Melbourne player was finally rewarded for all his efforts when he clinically headed a brilliant Carl Recchia cross from the right touchline, in a replica of the first-half goal.

Left-footed David Carney was introduced in an attempt to bring width to the Sydney approach play, and his incisive through ball to Petrovski almost paid off, with Galekovic doing well to smother the chance.

But while the home team- worringly- lacked the ideas in attack, the away side conjured up a further two chances. Firstly, two players who were onside conspired to scuff a lovely through ball, while Thompson missed the target in stoppage time.

Captain Mark Rudan (substituted with fifteen minutes remaining) was at a loss to explain the lack of invention in Sydney's second half and agreed that it was a point gained rather than two points dropped.

"I don't know what happened," he said. "We've got to be critical of ourselves. We want our home ground to be a dungeon."

Meanwhile, Merrick paid tribute to Thompson by comparing him to National Soccer League all-time leading goalscorer Damian Mori.

Sydney F.C.	1
Melbourne Victory	1

Victory players crowd around star scorer Archie Thomspon after his equalizing goal silences the 25 thousand plus fans in Sydney.

Just as expected, Sydney FC's marquee man Dwight Yorke was bouncing for joy after scoring the home side's first goal

Who's Hot:

Dwight Yorke may receive all of the attention, but Australian striker **Archie Thompson** was by far the most dangerous player of the pitch and is sure to feature in Guus Hiddink's plans for the Socceroos.

The Bathurst born striker could have easily had 3 or 4 goals against a leaky Sydney FC defence which Archie carved up to a tee.

Who's Not:

Unfortunately, **Sydney FC**'s performance did not match the excitement on the terraces.

Drastic improvement is required in the key areas of central defence, (communication and complacency) and midfield (balance and complacency).

Glitz and glamour will not make things all Dwight on the night.

Although football was the winner in Sydney, then team need to really lift their high standards further.

Melbourne's Michael Ferrante wins a heading duel with Sydney's Iain Fyfe (right)

GAME STATS

SYDNEY FC 1
(Dwight Yorke 44')

MELBOURNE VICTORY 1
(Archie Thompson 73')

Ground: Aussie Stadium. Crowd: 25,208.
Referee: Mark Shield

Sydney FC: Clint Bolton (gk), Iain Fyfe, Alvin Ceccoli, Mark Rudan (c) (Jacob Timpano), Ufuk Talay (David Carney), David Zdrilic (Matthew Bingley), Steven Corica, Sasho Petrovski, Andrew Packer, Terry McFlynn, Dwight Yorke

Melbourne Victory: Eugene Galekovic (gk), Kevin Muscat (c), Geoffrey Claeys, Steve Pantelidis (Chris Tadrosse), Michael Ferrante, Andy Vlahos, Daniel Allsopp, Archie Thompson, Carl Recchia, Kristian Sarkies (Ricky Diaco), Adrian Leijer.

Cautions: Andrew Packer (SFC), Dwight Yorke (SFC), Kevin Muscat (MV), Michael Ferrante (MV)

Player Ratings on page 22

SOCCER NSW LIFTOUT

FORMER RUGBY LEAGUE EXPERT KICKS A GOAL WITH SOCCER NSW

Soccer NSW is proud to announce the appointment of Tony Peters as its new Executive Manager, Commercial Services.

Channel Ten's former Rugby League presenter brings to Soccer NSW a wealth of experience, knowledge and contacts in the media and advertising worlds.

Over the past 25 years, Peters has worked for Radio 2GB and 2KY as well as acting in the roles of producer and senior reporter for Network Ten Sydney. In 1986, he was awarded journalism's most sought after accolade, when presented with a Walkley Award for breaking a story on the Australian cricket team's rebel tour of South Africa.

He joins Soccer NSW at a time when the organisation is entering a bold, exciting phase in its history. Kicking off in January 2006 and concluding in July, Soccer NSW will unveil its new look competition aimed at bringing the game in the state to a new level.

Among his varied responsibilities will be to ensure Soccer NSW and its new competition gains maximum media exposure and sponsorship.

After covering Rugby League for the best part of three decades, Peters answers the question asked most. "Why the change?"

"Rugby League has been my business but Soccer has been my passion," Peters said.

"I've been following Tottenham since the '70s and have been a team manager of my son's local soccer club for the past ten years. At the end of the day, it was all about a new challenge. I have always regarded soccer as a sleeping giant," added Peters.

"I'm not promising miracles but I'm confident I can make an impact. Professionalism in everything we do is the first step in a long process to ensuring the game receives the respect it seeks and indeed deserves."

New Soccer NSW Executive Manager, Commercial Services Tony Peters

DULWICH BOSS CLAIMS UNDERDOG TAG

By Greg Stock

Dulwich Hill coach Scott Wells has claimed the underdog tag, as the war of words erupts before the Winter Super League Finals Series.

A week out from their clash with rivals Canterbury-Marrickville in the Preliminary Semi-Finals, Wells points to their last meeting on August 3rd as proof his side needs to lift substantially to pull off an upset.

"That night Canterbury just ripped us to pieces and won 6-1 and if they live up to that form it will be a tough game for us," said Wells. "Admittedly we had a number of players out, but Canterbury have a solid side of big name players who lift for big games, so we'll need to be at our absolute best."

Dulwich Hill did beat Canterbury 3-2 in the first round, but it was a dominating display from the Berries in the second, that has their fans salivating at the thought of a dream match-up with F.C.Bossy Liverpool in the Major Semi-Final.

In the weekend's other match, Fraser Park will need to lift substantially if they are to trouble Hajduk Wanderers United in their Elimination Semi-Final clash. Ian Gillan's side was flogged 4-1 by Dulwich Hill and will need to show much more discipline, after a string of send-offs will see them face their biggest game of the season down on numbers. Michael Prentice and Malcolm Bideau will both be missing with suspension, while Hajduk go into the match at full strength.

"This competition has been the most competitive Winter Super League season I have coached in," said Gillan. "Any side can beat any other on the day and that goes for the semi-finals. This final series will be no picnic, but we'll regroup this week and go out there in a positive mood to try and upset Hajduk."

The Premiers, F.C.Bossy Liverpool, will enjoy a much needed week off and meets the winner of Canterbury-Marrickville and Dulwich Hill in the Major Semi-Final.

CAUTIOUS CLUBS

By Paul Goodwin

Aspiring clubs are exercising caution, as the new Premier League season beckons this coming summer.

Many are awaiting the outcome of a special meeting, called for tonight (Tuesday), with the directors of Soccer NSW, to finally establish the criteria for entry into the new, streamlined competition.

Signing players and coaches, in this environment, is just too risky, as the clubs cannot offer contracts until they are sure they are going to be included in the new-look 12 team competition. The best they can do is getting players to sign letters of intent, in the circumstances.

Bankstown City Lions, however, are concentrating more on off-the-field matters, having already stitched up deals with successful player-coach, Peter Tsekenis and almost all of last season's players for next season.

While the Lions' Jensen Park headquarters are unlikely to meet the criteria in their present form, the club has exciting plans for the ground in the next 12-24 months, according to secretary, Lou Apostolovski.

"We have plans before Bankstown council to develop the ground," Apostolovski said.

"With five million dollars to be spent in building new grandstands and facilities for both ourselves and the Bankstown Association, with whom we have agreed to share the Jensen Park complex ,and therefore have both the Youth League and the Association teams on the second pitch there."

Apostolovski explained that until Jensen Park can be brought up to standard, the club is likely to play at either Marconi Stadium or the Sydney United Sports Centre. They are in-negotiations with both of those south western Sydney clubs to ground-share this coming summer, to maintain some continuity.

Just up the road, at Melita Stadium, the Parramatta Eagles are also being cautious.

Parramatta president, Tony Azzopardi knows his club's ground has a lot going for it, but that there are other areas of concern for the Eagles.

"The meeting on Tuesday should settle a few things, as clubs need to know where they stand with the original criteria," Azzopardi said.

Many of the clubs felt that it was a little unrealistic and this meeting may address those concerns.

Rockdale City Suns, for one, have no real fears about their future, as their own ground is also going to be redeveloped very soon, with a State Government grant applied for, and exciting plans for their Soccer Centre's future.

Mendo Cklamovski, the club's secretary for the last 12 years, has just been elected as the Suns' new president, and reports that a full time administrator has already been appointed.

Lights and a new grandstand will be erected at the Banksia complex, but, as at Jensen Park, the ground won't be ready for the coming summer season, and the club will need to ground share once again, either at St George or at Sutherland.

"We can't sign players or a coach until we know what's happening, but we are very well placed to compete this summer," stressed Cklamovski.

Also keen to take part in the Premier League are Super League side Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic. Foundation members of the NSW Soccer scene, they have plans to take up residence at the Sydney Athletic Centre at Homebush, following their recent move in linking with Parramatta City's youth league teams, and a geographical move closer to most of the club's financial interests,

"We have money in the bank and a steady income," said Laki Konistis, the club's administrator.

"We are better placed than most to compete in the Premier League again (the club was relegated at the end of the 2003-4 season) and the Parramatta City move means we may even change our name; in fact that's highly likely now," said Konistis.

Signings for many may be up in the air, but most of last season's clubs, and at least two of the current Super League outfits, are all looking forward to next summer. Only wooden-spooners, Sydney Crescent Star, of last season's clubs, are likely to be absent from the meeting of Premier League clubs.

Penrith Nepean United, still uncertain about their future status as a Premier League member, moved to appoint former Bankstown City coach and NSL player, Claudio Canosa, to their senior coaching position, back in July. Canosa appreciated he would take over without knowing which league his team would compete in.

No players have been signed, although Canosa has been talking to a number of quality men, with a high level of competition in mind. The club is also keen to address all other criteria as well, before going ahead with any playing contracts.

Cook Park St Marys may need to be upgraded, or another venue found for the club, if it is to satisfy the grounds criteria, but in most other areas the Penrith outfit seems well placed.

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...INSIDE...

● Soccer NSW News 13
● Winter Super League At A Glance 14
● Winter Super League Match Reports 15-17
● Premier, State and Youth Results 18
● Arrive alive NSW Womens Super League Finals 19
● Grassroots Feature 20

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NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

AT A GLANCE

FRASER PARK DRAGONS 1
DULWICH HILL 4

Fraser Park snared a spot in the finals series despite suffering an embarrassing 4-1 defeat at the hands of arch-rivals Dulwich Hill.

The Dragons got some much needed assistance from Sutherland, who defeated sixth placed Sydney University to leave the Dragons in fifth spot. An unhappy day for Fraser Park coach Ian Gillan, included the send-off of midfielder Malcolm Bideau, after he clashed with Dulwich Hill coach Scott Wells.

SUTHERLAND SHARKS 4
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 2

Sydney University blew their chance to make an appearance in back-to-back finals series when they were run down 4-2 by the Sutherland Sharks. With everything to play for, 'the students' didn't really hit their straps until the second half, when they wiped out a 2-0 deficit.

But in their efforts to push for a winner, they conceded two goals on the counter attack to give the Sharks an unlikely win.

MACARTHUR RAMS 2
WESTERN RAGE 1

The Macarthur Rams capped off a solid finish to the season with a 2-1 win over Western Rage at Lynwood Park. With neither side involved in either the relegation battle or the post season, both sides were happy to chance their arm – all three goals coming inside an action-packed first half.

While the second slowed down in intensity, it did produce some absorbing football. Both teams finished safely in mid-table.

Fraser Park's Archie Markopoulos on the run against Dulwich Hill

HURSTVILLE ZSC 2
STANMORE HAWKS 3

Stanmore Hawks player/coach Scott Baillie will spend the off-season pondering an offer to coach the club again next season, after they posted their sixth win from their last eight matches to finish in eighth position. Their 3-2 win over Hurstville ZSC condemned the home team to the wooden spoon, with former Socceroo Luke Casserly bobbing up to steer home the winner.

HAJDUK WANDERERS UTD 2
FC BOSSY LIVERPOOL 1

Hajduk Wanderers United will meet Fraser Park in the elimination semi-final next weekend, after upsetting the premiers F.C.Bossy Liverpool 2-1 at Hajduk Stadium.

Still sporting a hangover after winning the Premiership trophy, Bossy were a long way short of their best, but still gave Hajduk a tough game. Brendan Salameh popped up with the second half winner, which pushed Trevor Morgan's side comfortably through to the finals series.

NORTHERN TIGERS 4
C/BURY MARRICKVILLE 5

The Northern Tigers gave top three aspirants Canterbury-Marrickville a real tickle up at Parklands Oval, going down by the odd goal in nine.

Farewelling outgoing coach (and Tigers legend) Fred Mesiti, the home side saved their best game of the season till last, using the full width of the pitch to test the visitors. The Berries were not in control of the three points till Josh Sama scored in the 85th minute.

HURSTVILLE CITY 0
FAIRFIELD BULLS 4

Fairfield Bulls fans can thank midfielder Tony Basha for offloading the wooden spoon to Hurstville ZSC, after his two goals and another cameo performance helped his side to a 4-0 win over Hurstville City Minotaurs.

The Bulls were in complete control from the outset, but will still face the threat of relegation after finishing in 12th spot. The Minotaurs fared little better, finishing 13th of 14 clubs.

FC Bossy Liverpool's Alex Canak (centre) finds himself sandwiched between two Hajduk opponents

ROUND 26: RESULTS

FIRST GRADE: Hurstville ZSC 2 (R Plesa 45', K Tarkes 57') **Stanmore Hawks 3** (N Philippou 41', D James 50', L Casserly 83'), **Hajduk Wanderers United 2** (S Chipps 13', pen B Salameh 69') **FC Bossy Liverpool 1** (A Asanovic 64' pen), **Northern Tigers 4** (M Hunter 22'/65', M McCrory 50' pen, A Mittiga 87') **Canterbury Marrickville 5** (D Abel 19'/64', G Sama 30' pen/85', P Bourke 51'), **Macarthur Rams 2** (A Borg 13', P Wither 15') **Western Rage 1** (K Holbrook 40'), **Sutherland Sharks 4** (A Smith 29', S Tirovski 47', V Sansone 87', M Pfrengle 90') **Sydney University 2** (P Gavaghan 72', D Gill 76'), **Fraser Park Dragons 1** (S Karavatakis 73') **Dulwich Hill 4** (A Faria 20'/40', P Cotte 61', I King 87'), **Hurstville City Minotaurs 0 Fairfield Bulls 4** (T Basha 2'/72', N Kontos 37', M Borg 47').

GRADE 20: Hurstville ZSC 0 Stanmore Hawks 5, Hajduk Wanderers United 1 FC Bossy Liverpool 0, Northern Tigers 0 Canterbury Marrickville 3, Macarthur Rams 1 Western Rage 1, Sutherland Sharks 1 Sydney University 2, Fraser Park Dragons 2 Dulwich Hill 0, Hurstville City Minotaurs 0 Fairfield Bulls 0.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

24 Alex Asanovic (FCBL),
18 Ivo de Jesus (DH),
14 Fadi Ghosson (CMO),
13 Tony Basha (FB),
11 Tim Gledhill (HW),
Ben Jenke (NT),
Iain MacDonald (SS),
Paul Wither (MR),

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WINTER SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE • ROUND 26

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
FC Bossy Liverpool	**26**	**16**	**6**	**4**	**51**	**30**	**21**	**54**
Canterbury Marrickville	26	14	4	8	59	46	13	46
Dulwich Hill	26	13	7	6	52	39	13	46
Hajduk Wanderers United	26	13	6	7	43	34	9	45
Fraser Park Dragons	26	11	7	8	45	39	6	40
Sutherland Sharks	26	12	3	11	43	36	7	39
Sydney University	26	11	5	10	41	44	-3	38
Stanmore Hawks	26	10	5	11	30	31	-1	35
Macarthur Rams	26	11	2	13	33	38	-5	35
Northern Tigers	26	8	6	12	38	43	-5	30
Western Rage	26	7	9	10	44	55	-11	30
Fairfield Bulls	26	7	3	16	37	50	-13	24
Hurstville City Minotaurs	26	6	6	14	30	44	-14	24
Hurstville ZSC	26	7	3	16	31	48	-17	24

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE GRADE 20 • ROUND 26

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Sydney University	**26**	**17**	**6**	**3**	**56**	**23**	**33**	**57**
Dulwich Hill	26	15	8	3	64	28	36	53
Macarthur Rams	26	12	8	6	53	47	6	44
Canterbury Marrickville	26	13	2	11	56	39	17	41
Fraser Park Dragons	26	11	7	8	56	41	15	40
FC Bossy Liverpool	26	11	6	9	39	39	0	39
Sutherland Sharks	26	10	6	10	44	49	-5	36
Stanmore Hawks	26	10	5	11	41	38	3	35
Fairfield Bulls	26	10	5	11	46	51	-5	35
Hajduk Wanderers United	26	9	7	10	48	42	6	34
Western Rage	26	8	7	11	43	49	-6	31
Hurstville City Minotaurs	26	6	5	15	31	51	-20	23
Northern Tigers	26	4	11	11	27	48	-21	23
Hurstville ZSC	26	3	3	20	22	81	-59	12

NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

◆ FINALS SERIES ◆

◆ ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL ◆

Saturday 3rd September @ Sydney United Sports Centre

FIRST GRADE	HAJDUK WANDERERS UNITED	FRASER PARK DRAGONS	3:00PM
GRADE 20	CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE	FRASER PARK DRAGONS	12:30PM

◆ PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL ◆

Sunday 4th September @ Melita Stadium

FIRST GRADE	CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE	DULWICH HILL	3:00PM
GRADE 20	DULWICH HILL	MACARTHUR RAMS	12:30PM

NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE
THE LOWER HALF OF THE LADDER

SOCCER NSW

HURTSVILLE FOR THE HURSTVILLE'S

ZSC AND THE MINOTAURS LEFT AT THE BOTTOM BY RAMPAGING BULLS

THE BOTTOM SEVEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Stanmore Hawks	26	10	5	11	30	31	-1	35
Macarthur Rams	26	11	2	13	33	38	-5	35
Northern Tigers	26	8	6	12	38	43	-5	30
Western Rage	26	7	9	10	44	55	-11	30
Fairfield Bulls	26	7	3	16	37	50	-13	24
Hurstville City Minotaurs	26	6	6	14	30	44	-14	24
Hurstville ZSC	26	7	3	16	31	48	-17	24

Hurstville ZSC	2
Stanmore Hawks	3

By Paul Goodwin

Hurstville ZSC's miserable season came to an end as they finished with the wooden spoon after losing 3-2 to Stanmore Hawks at Hurstville Oval.

Stanmore, a much improved side, were not ideal opponents for a team keen to move off the bottom. The locals did their best to overhaul the other Hurstville side, which they would have managed had they drawn.

The Hawks hit the front in the 41st minute, when a delicate chip from Neil Philippou outwitted the Hurstville keeper.

ZSC skipper, Richie Plesa, had his side level just before the break, when he put away a penalty after Tony Alilovic had been brought down.

The Hawks forged ahead in the 50th minute, when midfielder and sometime captain, David James, tapped in at the far post after a cross from the left.

Hurstville rallied again with the highly promising Kresemir Tarkes finding the net in the 57th minute with a header from Orhan Dincer's cross.

An 83rd minute winner from the vastly experienced Luke Casserly delivered a stunning blow to ZSC, who had fought so hard to hold onto the precious point they needed.

Casserly's free kick from the edge of the box, at a tight angle, found the top corner of the net.

Hurstville had more than enough of the game to win, but they did not take their other chances and failed to contain the experienced Stanmore attack, when it mattered.

Luke Casserly scored the winner for Stanmore against Hurstville ZSC

Hurstville City	0
Fairfield Bulls	4

By Greg Stock

The Fairfield Bulls finished their disappointing season minus the wooden spoon, but with the threat of relegation hanging over their head, despite dishing out a 4-0 hiding to the Hurstville City Minotaurs.

Having staged a late season fightback which netted 13 competition points from their final six matches, the Bulls still completed the season in 12th spot, one above the Minotaurs, but still eligible for relegation.

The game was a largely one-sided contest with the home side doing most of the defending and the visitors most of the attacking. Tony Basha snared a brace for the Bulls, while Nick Kontos and prodigal son Mathew Borg got the other goals to set up a win, which left Hurstville ZSC with the wooden spoon after their 3-2 loss to Stanmore Hawks.

In windy conditions it was the performance of Basha that again earnt all the plaudits, as he scored a beautiful header for his first and backed it up with a world class strike for number two.

Mathew Borg again showed why he is one of the best goalsneaks around, scoring a nice individual effort in the 47th minute.

Fairfield's Mathew Borg, pictured in action earlier in the season, scored against Hurstville City Minotaurs

EARLY STRIKES QUELL RAGE

Macarthur Rams	2
Western Rage	1

By Paul Goodwin

Two early Macarthur goals proved decisive as the Rams and Western Rage played for pride at Lynwood Park.

The Rams dominated possession in the opening exchanges and it wasn't long before the home side took control.

First, Shane Hammond danced his way through the Rage midfield in the 13th minute, before releasing Rams' striker, Andrew Borg, who calmly slotted the ball past the Rage keeper.

The familiar combination of Daniel Nash and Paul Wither were involved when Macarthur doubled its lead two minutes later.

Nash raced down the right and whipped the ball in to the box, where the club's leading scorer, Wither, tucked the ball neatly inside the far post.

This spurred Rage into action, but Adam Wither and his Rams defence repelled any challenge that came their way until the 40th minute, when Kris Holbrook beat the offside trap and slotted the ball into the net.

This was the end of the scoring, but not the entertainment, as both sides continued attacking, but without finding the net again.

"The boys have played well over the last month and it was good to finish with two convincing wins," Rams coach, Luke McGuire, said.

The result left Macarthur holding ninth spot, just behind Stanmore.

SOCCER NSW

NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE
THE BATTLE FOR FINALS SPOTS

MORE HOME HEROICS BY HAJDUK

PREMIERS FALL IN FINAL ROUND

By Paul Goodwin

Hajduk Wanderers	2
FC Bossy Liverpool	1

Hajduk Wanderers completed an unbeaten home campaign, as they scored a 2-1 win against Premiers FC Bossy Liverpool, in front of a large crowd at Hajduk Stadium.

The opening goal came from the penalty spot in the 13th minute, when Brendan Salameh was brought down. Referee Craig Pearce pointed to the spot and Stephen Chipps slammed the ball into the back of the net.

Chipps almost scored again as he headed the ball towards goal, but Trinity Allen was at his best to save tidily.

In the 34th minute, Liverpool came close to equalising, when veteran Hajduk defender, Mark Abi-Arrage, missed a clearance from just outside the 18 yard box. The league's top scorer, Alex Asanovic, was quick to gain control of the ball when he came one-on-one with Daniel Schwarzer, but his shot was well blocked by the alert Hajduk keeper.

Hajduk's Stephen Chipps shoots for goal with Bossy's Kain Rastall attempting to block the shot and goalkeeper Trinity Allen ready to make a save

In the 42nd minute, Abi-Arrage made a similar mistake. Again Asanovic came close to putting it away, but Abi-Arrage recovered well and cleared the ball to safety.

FC Bossy began the second half with a little more aggression and within 15 minutes they created three good chances, but Hajduk defended well.

The first chance came in the 47thth minute, when Asanovic just missed the upright; then a cross by Shane Webb was met by Peter Apolevski, but he sent his shot well over the bar, from close range.

Then in the 59th minute, when Schwarzer was caught off his line, Alex Canak struck the ball from 20 yards out, but hit the top of the post.

Bossy got the equaliser in the 64th minute, when Asanovic sent Schwarzer the wrong way from the penalty spot.

Bossy supporters didn't celebrate for too long as, five minutes later, a well-taken corner by Stephen Scotti was headed home by Salameh; his first goal of the season and what a time to score it!

Hajduk came alive again and twice captain Tim Gledhill was very unlucky not to put his name on the scoresheet. In the 71st minute, he volleyed the ball from about 25 yards out, but his shot missed the target.

Three minutes later, from a similar position, he had a cracker of a shot, but it just missed the upright.

Bossy tried hard to save the game, but in the end they simply ran out of time.

Hajduk coach, Trevor Morgan, was full of praise for his hard working team.

"I thought Hajduk had the better of the game and definitely had more shots at goal than Bossy did", Morgan said.

HAJDUK WANDERERS vs FC BOSSY LIVERPOOL

HAJDUK WANDERERS: 1 Daniel Schwarzer - 15 Phil Hartshorn, 5 Mark Abi-Arrage, 11 Stephen Scotti (7 Mark Iorfino), 8 Paul Crisp - 14 Brendan Salameh, 17 Jason Trifero (9 Elsid Barkhousir), 18 Stephen Chipps, 10 Trent Worrall (Jeffrey Issa 55), 4 Tim Gledhill (C) -19 Marcello Guerrero (16 Tom Bazdaric)

Subs not used: Ken Greenhead and 3 Michael McGovern

Coach: Trevor Morgan

F.C. BOSSY LIVERPOOL: 1 Trinity Allen – 2 Sasa Utjesenovic (3 Damien Luksic), 16 Damien Foxe, 5 Mirza Sehic (C), 4 Shane Webb – 8 Nabil Codmani (17 Baillamadou Conde), 15 Peter Apolevski, 19 Robbie Gomez, 21 Kain Rastall – 9 Alex Asanovic, 18 Alex Canak

Subs not used: 22 Adrian Mascelino, 10 Anthony Adamo

Coach: Mile Todoroski.

Referee: Craig Pearce

Assistant Referees: Sandro Perticarini and Jose da Silva

Yellow Cards: Hajduk Wanderers: Paul Crisp; FC Bossy Liverpool: Alex Asanovic

BERRIES CLINCH SECOND SPOT

TEENAGE DEBUATANT SCORES TWICE IN NINE-GOAL THRILLER

By Paul Goodwin

Northern Tigers	4
Canterbury-Marrickville	5

Teenage defender David Abel scored twice on debut, to help Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic secure second spot on the ladder with a 5-4 win over Northern Tigers at Parklands Oval.

The Tigers wanted to give outgoing coach Fred Mesiti a fond farewell and turned it on in style, but at the death, they couldn't secure a point.

Both coaches left happy with their respective team's efforts.

Mesiti, pleased that his young team had given it their best shot and the Berries' Laki Konistis, likewise, because they had done enough to win and hold off a late challenge for second from Dulwich Hill.

Canterbury administrator and coach, Konistis was full of praise for his opponents after the game.

"They never gave up and are a credit to the club," Konistis said.

"Those youngsters made us fight every inch of the way.

"It was good to secure second spot, but we will not play at Lambert Park and we are booking Melita Stadium for our semi-final home game, due to the poor state of the pitch at Leichhardt."

Konistis was also delighted with his 16 year old defender Abel.

With three players suspended - Damon Collina, Fred Umlil and Ben Price - Canterbury had to rely on their squad's depth to fill the holes and they did the job well.

In front after only 19 minute, when Abel found the top right corner with a superb strike from 20 yards out, after a corner had not been cleared. Canterbury might have expected to go on and dominate the Tigers. It was not going to be that easy, as three minutes later the scores were level.

Michael McCrory got away down the left and squared the ball to Jason Mesiti, who laid the ball off nicely for Matt Hunter, to drill the ball low past Ivan Necevski.

The Tigers gave a goal away in the 30th minute. Nathan Hopley lost possession to the Berries' Josh Sama, and Danny Hurwitz upended the tall striker, just inside the box.

Referee Con Diomis pointed to the spot and Sama converted with ease.

Five minutes into the second half, Diomis pointed to the spot at the other end when McCrory, again on the left of the area, was dragged back by a tug on his shirt by Abel.

McCrory netted to leave the game hanging in the balance again.

There were some wonderful goals in this match, which featured several long range strikes, one of which came in the 51st minute. Paul Bourke restored the Berries' lead with a brilliant low shot, after a corner had not been satisfactorily cleared.

Abel, with a bullet-header, following another John Kyriazopoulos corner from the right, in the 64th minute, made it 4-2 for Canterbury, but the home side would not lie down.

A minute later, a fine cross from Paul Davies on the right was met nicely by Hunter, for his second of the afternoon, in his unexpected role of striker for the day.

Five minutes from time Sama made it 5-3 to put the game beyond the Tigers' reach, racing onto a nice pass from Bourke, who had won the ball from Hunter on halfway.

But two minutes later, the Tigers fashioned a fourth goal of their own, to set up a great finish, as Tony Mittiga's 35 yard screamer found the top right corner of the net.

At the death Jason Mesiti found himself free in the box and Necevski had to stretch fully to claim the ball low, before it could angle across him and into the net for an equaliser.

Canterbury will want to tighten their defence if they are to progress further in the Finals series, but with Collina, Umlil and Price due back they should have the resources, with Abel a useful back-up.

NORTHERN TIGERS vs C/BURY-MARRICKVILLE

NORTHERN TIGERS: 1 Dean McCreath – 6 Nathan Hopley (10 Ben Jenke), 4 Danny Hurwitz, 12 Tom Spencer, 3 Maurice Aliberti - 11 Paul Davies, 5 Tony Mittiga (C), 15 Marcus Frost, 7 Jason Mesiti – 9 Michael McCrory, 8 Matt Hunter (13 Tim Giblett 86)

Subs not used: Chris Peck, 14 Matt Mesiti

Coach: Fred Mesiti

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE: 1 Ivan Necevski - 6 Adrian Molachino, 10 David Abel, 4 Kelvin Foster, 11 Archie Kotsopoulos (C), 7 Paul Bourke, David Gardiner, 9 Dimitri Zakilas, 18 John Kyriazopoulos (19 Chris Theodosiou 86) - 17 Josh Sama, 14 Fadi Ghosson (John Tsironis 81)

Subs not used: Sam Emmanouil, 2 Matthew Goss and 8 Michael O'Riley

Coaches: Laki Konistis/Damon Collina

Referee: Con Diomis

Assistant Referees: David Walshe and Brad Rayner

Yellow Cards: Nil

NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE
THE BATTLE FOR FINALS SPOTS

SOCCER NSW

THANKS MATE!

Fraser Park Dragons	1
Dulwich Hill	4

By Greg Stock

Fraser Park coach Ian Gillan can thank his good mate Sutherland coach Stewart Porter for getting his side into their third consecutive finals series, after Dulwich Hill dished out an embarrassing 4-1 defeat of the Dragons at Fraser Park.

In fifth spot and under pressure from sixth-placed Sydney University, the Dragons needed at least a draw to hold onto a spot in the semi-finals; but it was the Sharks 4-2 victory over University that saw Gillan's side home, after they blew their chance to pick up points under their own steam.

"I guess I owe him (Porter) a beer," said a rather sombre Gillan. "We had everything to play for today and came up short, so from our end it was very very disappointing."

Down 2-0 to a first half brace from Tony Faria, the turning point of an enthralling match came ten minutes into the second half. Dragons substitute Malcolm Bideau was shown a straight red card after an incident with Dulwich Hill co-coach Scott Wells, when trying to retrieve a ball for a throw-in.

The blow-up saw tensions momentarily spill over, forcing referee Alex Glasgow to send both Bideau and Wells off, leaving Fraser Park to fight out the remaining minutes with just ten men.

"It was definitely the turning point, but even up till that point we had been in the box seat," said Wells.

"We were 2-0 up and my only concern was making sure we kept our concentration and not concede any silly goals, so it was good to see we went on with the job."

The win was set up by the explosive pace of Faria, who made the Dragons defence look second rate with two quality first half strikes. Paul Cotte made the score 3-0 in the 61st minute, when he put away a nice pass from David O'Han, before the Dragons got one back via Steve Karavatakis. Former Stoke City midfielder Ian King finished the match on a high note for the visitors, when he put away a cross from Clint Mayberry with a beautiful left foot strike three minutes from time.

"Full credit to Dulwich Hill, they showed they are a quality side and will take a power of beating in the finals series," said Gillan.

"We definitely had a lot of possession today, but we didn't penetrate and that's something we'll need to work on this week."

The three points assisted Dulwich Hill to capture third spot on the competition table and an appointment with Canterbury-Marrickville in next weekend's Preliminary Semi-Final, while the Dragons will face a do-or-die encounter with Hajduk Wanderers United.

Fraser Park's Terry Atsas (front) tries to keep a very determined Dulwich Hill player at bay

Fraser Park's Achileas Markopoulos (right) finds himself pressured by a Dulwich opponent

Fraser Park vs Dulwich Hill

FRASER PARK: 1.Stacy Alogdellis – 2.Ben Mailer, 4.Michael Kladis, 12.Mark Bariamis, 5.Martin Bourke – 6.Achileas Markopoulos (7.Jose Fernandes 81'), 8.Terry Atsas (14.Malcolm Bideau 53'), 10.Greg Collins, 11.Liam Austin – 9.Steve Karavatakis (33.Jason Gorrido 90'), 20.Evangelos Petratos.

Coach: Ian Gillan.

DULWICH HILL: 1.Wojtek Zarzycki - 2.Paul Cotte, 5.Jose Mendes, 8.David O'Han, 6.Mathew Percy – 7.Clint Mayberry, 4.Patrick Darvill, 16.Antonio Faria (9.Harry James 73'), 11.Ian King – 10.Ivo de Jesus (18.Dejan Ristovski 90'), 15.Luke Vincent.

Coaches: Scott Wells and Fernando Canelas.

Yellow Card: Dulwich Hill Cotte 48; Fraser Park Petratos 60, Bourke 62, Bariamis 90

Red Card: Fraser Park Bideau 54

Referee: Alex Glasgow

Assistant Referees: David Finlay and Nick Asargiotis

UNI BLOW IT

Sutherland Sharks	4
Sydney University	2

By Greg Stock

A lethargic first half and the send off of midfielder Peter Gavaghan have cost Sydney University a spot in the Winter Super League final series.

Seeking to emulate their heroics of last season when they went all the way to within a game of the Grand Final, 'the students' were over-run in the first half, but dug deep in the second, to turn a 2-0 deficit into a 2-2 game, setting up a grandstand finish.

A moment of ill-discipline from Gavaghan, which earnt a red card from referee Greg Leverton, spoilt Uni's party, allowing the Sharks the opportunity to score two goals on the break and take the three points.

For Sutherland coach Stewart Porter it was a match with mixed emotions, having coached Sydney University to their biggest on-field success last season.

"I never felt comfortable at any stage of the match and it was a credit to Uni coach Jimmy Campbell and his team that they fought it out to the bitter end," Porter said.

"With the win we jumped Uni to finish sixth, so from our end it was a good year and hopefully it's something we can build on for next season."

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NSW PREMIER STATE & YOUTH RESULTS

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE:

FINAL SERIES:
MINOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Schofields Scorpions 1 (Own goal 70m) Mt Druitt Town 2 (S Bowman 77m, C Camilleri 94m).
GRADE 20: Schofields Scorpions 1 Belmore Hercules 3.

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Fairfield City Lions 1 (R Younis 3m) Inter Lions 0.
GRADE 20: Mt Pritchard 2 Inter Lions 1 After Extra Time (1-1 Full Time).

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE:

FINAL SERIES:
MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 13: Blacktown City 2 Parramatta Eagles 0.
GRADE 14: Marconi Stallions 0 Blacktown City 4.
GRADE 15: Marconi Stallions 1 Parramatta Eagles 0.
GRADE 16: Gladesville Spirit FC 1 Blacktown City 2.
GRADE 18: Marconi Stallions 0 Manly United FC 0, after extra time (Manly won 4-1 on penalties).

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 13: Marconi Stallions 2 Gladesville Spirit FC 0.
GRADE 14: Sydney United 1 Parramatta Eagles 3.
GRADE 15: Bankstown City Cubs 2 St George Saints 3.
GRADE 16: Sydney Olympic 2 Parramatta Eagles 1.
GRADE 18: Gladesville Spirit FC 1 Parramatta Eagles 4.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO:

FINAL SERIES:
PRELIMINARY FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Springwood SC 0 Hakoah 1 (N Levi 103m) after extra time (0-0 F/T).
GRADE 21: Hakoah 1 Fogolar Wanderers 0.
GRADE 19: University of NSW 0 Sydney Cedars SC 2.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE:

FINAL SERIES:
PRELIMINARY FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Colo Colo 2 Gladesville United 5 After Extra Time (2-2 Full Time).
RESERVE GRADE: Hawkesbury City 3 Trasandinos 1.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:

FINAL SERIES:
PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 13: Penrith Nepean United 1 Central Coast United 0.
GRADE 14: Schofields Scorpions 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0.
GRADE 15: Penrith Nepean United 1 Bathurst 75 Western 0.
GRADE 16: Schofields Scorpions 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0.
GRADE 18: Fraser Park 2 Central Coast United 1.

ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 13: Fraser Park 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0.
GRADE 14: Southern Branch 1 Central Coast United 3.
GRADE 15: Fraser Park 0 Central Coast United 3.
GRADE 16: Penrith Nepean United 0 Hill Brumbies 0 after extra time (Hills Brumbies won 4-2 on penalties)
GRADE 18: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Parramatta Star 1 after extra time (1-1 Full Time).

Arrive alive

NSW GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE:

FINAL SERIES:
MINOR SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 12: Sutherland Association 0 Southern Branch 1, Manly United FC 0 Penrith Nepean United 1.
UNDER 14: St George Saints 0 Penrith Nepean United 0 after extra time (St George won 4-3 on penalties), Sutherland Association 0 Macarthur Rams 2.
UNDER 16: St George Saints 2 Central Coast United FC 4, NWS Koalas 4 Penrith Nepean United 0.

attack

METROPOLITAN LEAGUE

FINAL SERIES
MINOR SEMI FINAL

GRADE 11: Sutherland Association 1 Illawarra Association 4.
GRADE 12: Granville Association 1 Manly Association 2.

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 11: Blacktown Association 2 St George Association 0.
GRADE 12: Blacktown Association 0 Southern Districts 3.

SOCCER NSW

SOCCER NSW

Arrive alive NSW WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE FINALS SERIES

Arrive alive NSW WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

MANLY TOPPLE MARCONI

The upsets continued in the *Arrive alive* Womens Super League finals, as giant-killer's Manly United FC claimed the first grand final spot and another huge scalp, by toppling minor premier Marconi 2-1 after extra time in the major semi final at Jensen Park.

It was the third time in four finals games, the lower placed side had prevailed.

Manly, which finished the season in third spot, has emerged as a very real contender for honours over the last two weekends.

Last week it upset second placed Koalas 2-0 in the preliminary semi final, but this time United came from behind to record a memorable win.

Major Semi-Final
MANLY UNITED 2 MARCONI 1
(after extra time)

The game appeared to be following the formbook, when Marconi hit the front in the 12th minute through prolific scorer, Fab Perfilio.

Manly equalised through Elyce Bates in the 43rd minute and there was no more scoring in normal time.

Extra time seemed destined to pass without a goal until Sarah Gregorius struck in the 118th minute, to book Manly a spot in the season decider.

Marconi and the Koalas, who finished 17 and 10 points respectively ahead of Manly, now meet in a sudden death preliminary final at Jensen Park on Sunday, with the winner advancing to the grand final and the loser bowing out of the competition.

Players from Marconi and Manly keep their eyes on the ball

A Marconi player surges forward during the Major Semi-Final against Manly United

KOALAS CLIMB HIGH

One finals match finally followed the formbook, as North West Sydney Koalas returned to the winner's list with an emphatic 3-0 victory over Southern Branch in the *Arrive alive* Womens Super League elimination minor semi final at Francis Park, Blacktown.

Koalas successfully rebounded from last week's preliminary semi-final loss to lower placed Manly United FC, which ended their 19 match unbeaten run.

Both teams came out strong in an open and fast contest in the sudden death final.

After five minutes, Koalas midfielder Jessica Palmer slipped a neat pass to her right, finding the feet of striker Danielle Calvi, whose shot at goal went just over the bar.

Minor Semi-Final
NWS KOALAS 3 SOUTHERN BRANCH 0

Southern Branch lifted, with midfielder Erica Halloway setting up Tina Siskoska, whose brilliant strike from just outside the box was saved by Koalas keeper Erin Hunter. Southern continued to press the Koalas with some fine attacking play.

Koalas first goal came after 34 minutes, when Rebecca Wilde passed back to Rachael Doyle who sent a long ball to Calvi, who found herself in open space with Lisa Collins in support. Calvi drove the ball to the far post, wide of Southern Branch keeper Cuthbert, for a great goal.

Koalas second goal came in the 37th minute from Doyle.

In the second half, Southern Branch coach Bob Lavender's determined young team had numerous attacking opportunities led by Halloway, Katie French & Taryn Ruiz, only to be denied by the strong Koalas defensive pattern of Lara Neilson, Anna McLean, Doyle & Hunter.

The Koalas counter attacked and moving the ball from side to side stretched Southern's defence, but it held strong until the 76th minute. From inside her own half, Doyle passed to Jessica Seaman, who beat her player to loft a long neat ball to the feet of the flying RubyTaylor ten metres out, and she finished off a great goal for the Koalas.

Southern Branch's best players were midfielder Halloway. and Haley Abbott, who was tenacious all day in defence, while for Koalas, Palmer had another strong game.

A Southern Branch player homes in on the Koalas goal, watched by NWS defender Lara Neilson and goalkeeper Erin Hunter

Arrive *alive*
NSW WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

FINALS SERIES

MINOR SEMI FINAL

FIRST GRADE: NWS Koalas 3 (D Calvi 34m R Doyle 37m R Taylor 76m) Southern Branch 0.

GRADE 21: Sutherland Association 3 NWS Koalas 0.

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

FIRST GRADE: Marconi Stallions 1 (F Perfilio 12m) Manly United FC 2 (E Bates 43m S Gregorius 118m) Extra Time (1-1 Full Time).

GRADE 21: Marconi Stallions 1 Manly United FC 0.

PRELIMINARY FINAL
(WINNER THROUGH TO GRAND FINAL)

Sunday September 4
Marconi
vs
NSW Koalas
at Jensen Park
Clapham Road
Sefton 4:00pm kick off

SOCCER NSW

SOCCER NSW ELITE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM — APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

SOCCER NSW is now accepting applications from boys and girls for its ELITE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.
The initiative, which is open to boys and girls aged 11 to 14, is aimed at developing each and every player to their full potential.

WHEN: Nov-Dec 2005 and late Jan-30 Sept 2006.
WHERE: Valentine Sports Park, 235-257 Meurants Lane, Glenwood
COST: $300 plus GST

Trials will begin in September.
To register, please e-mail your Name, Date of Birth, Current club and Contact Numbers to:
tricia@soccernsw.com.au
BY NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER

For further information, please contact the Soccer NSW Coaching and Development Department on
✆ 8814 4400

TRIP OF A LIFE TIME

SOCCER NSW

Soccer NSW in conjunction with COERVER Coaching are seeking interested female players in the U13, U14 and U15 age categories to take part in its "Trip of a Lifetime" promotion.

The tour to England and Scotland will feature games against the best female youth teams the UK has to offer.

This once in a lifetime opportunity is available to players born in 1990, 1991 and 1992, who would like to trial for a representative side to play competitive games and training sessions.

The tour will be conducted from 16-28 January 2006.

COERVER Coaching will select 16 players in each age group to tour in January 2006.

COST
- $6000 per person
- Parents are welcome to travel with the team ($6000 per travelling parent)

Please mail or fax the form below if interested in trialling for the tour.

FAX: 02 8814 44 84
PO Box 6146 Baulkham Hills BC 2153

Player's Name: _____
(Please print neatly)
Touring Parent: _____
(Please print neatly)
Address: _____
_____ Post Code: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Phone: _____
Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

TALES FROM THE GRASSROOTS

SYDNEY'S FOOTBALL NURSERY

By Lisa Severin

When it comes to producing Australian internationals, Sydney's Southern Districts Soccer Football Association is as prolific as they come.

Current Socceroos Harry Kewell, Brett Emerton and Zeljko Kalac are just a few of the huge names who started their careers in the SDSFA.

Boasting over 7,500 registered players, Fairfield Patrician Brothers Soccer Club remains one of the Association's exemplary clubs.

Fairfield Patrician Brothers victorious Under 11, Division 2 squad.

Now in its 32nd year, the Smithfield based team experienced one of its most successful seasons to date.

Of the 22 sides fielded, Fairfield secured five minor premierships with another six of its teams reaching the grand final. Furthermore, its Premier league outfit will represent Southern Districts at the Champion of Champions tournament next month.

Perhaps the story of Fairfield's Under 11, Division two side encapsulates the spirit of the club best.

Only two years ago, this team failed to win a single game. In 2005, they went all the way to the final, accounting for Sydney Juniors 1-0. Thanks to the efforts of coach Dario Zaina and no shortage of commitment from the players.

The team's for and against record is testimony to how hard the boys have worked, 48 goals for, 7 against and the title of Under 11 Division two champions.

The nursery is in good hands.

COERVER COACHING AUSTRALIA

COERVER COACHING SYDNEY DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

The Coerver Development Academy is now accepting applications from boys and girls to trial for three of its development programs. These programs will target squads from U8 right through to U13+.

They include:

SYDNEY PROJECT 2014

Coerver Coaching will select a combination squad of players aged 12 and 13 (Born in 1994/93). It is hoped the foundations will be built so these players may one day represent Australia at the 2014 World Cup.

SYDNEY DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

This is for boys and girls in the U/8 (Born 98), U/9 (Born 97) and U/10 (Born 96) age categories. The top 18 players in each category will form the Sydney Development Academy

SYDNEY SENIOR POSTSEASON DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

This program is aimed at players aged 11 to 14 years. The focus will be on intensive training for the off-season (October to January).

All trials to be held at:

Valentine Sports Park
Meurants Lane, Glenwood
Saturday 3rd September & Sunday, 4th September

Players have the option to trial either on Saturday, on Sunday or both days.

For further information (fees, etc), please contact Paul Bentvelzen at the Coerver Coaching Office during business hours on 8814 4436 or 8814 4434.

SOCCER NSW FUTSAL

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CAMPBELLTOWN	LIVERPOOL	SHOALHAVEN
DURAL	MARRICKVILLE	ST CLAIR
EPPING	MASCOT	SUTHERLAND
FIVE DOCK	NORTHERN BEACHES	SYDNEY UNI
GLEBE	NORTH RYDE	TEMPE
GOSFORD	NORTH SYDNEY	WINDSOR
GREENACRE	PARKLEA	WOLLONGONG

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EMAIL: futsal@soccernsw.com.au

Round Two: A-League Previews

Adelaide United vs Queensland Roar

Friday 2nd September
Adelaide Utd vs Queensland Roar

THE GAME: A top-of-the-table clash as early as Round 2 is sure to add interest to the game. Both sides will enter the match high in confidence, and eager to please in front of the Adelaide public.

PLAYER TO WATCH: Alex Brosque displayed his ability by rifling home a wonderful strike on goal to break the deadlock against New Zealand. He will be dangerous if the Adelaide defenders give him room to manouevre.

X-FACTOR: Ross Aloisi is shaping up as a key player in Adelaide's campaign, and his ability to dictate terms may swing the match in favour of the home side.

In front of a passionate crowd at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide may continue their bright start to the season.

THE OUTCOME: The experienced striker Carl Veart, historic scorer of the A-League's first ever goal, may relish the opportunity to play against an inexperienced Queensland fence. The home side may confound the critics who doubt their ability to find the back of the net at ease.

SCORE: 3-1 Adelaide United

NZ Knights vs Sydney F.C.

Friday 2nd September
NZ Knights vs Sydney FC

THE GAME: Sydney FC are looking at posting their first victory of the season and will need to face a stubborn but under strength New Zealand Knights squad.

A lot more is expected from the 'glamour' side after failing to live up to its star status against Melbourne last weekend.

PLAYER TO WATCH: Sasho Petrovski: The Socceroo striker showed glimpses against the Victory on why he is one of the most skilful players in the land. Sydney FC will need to use him to the fullest as not only is Petrovski a scorer, but he is also a creator with his deft first time touches.

X-FACTOR: Steve Corica's experience in the heart of Sydney FC is essential and if zoned in, could be a huge factor in the outcome of the match on Friday.

His ruthless attitude and ball winning skills that was seen in spurts against the Victory could be what decides the match.

THE OUTCOME: Although the Knights showed that they will be no easy beats in the A-League against the Roar last week with a tough display of defending, Sydney FC has far too much class across the park to be troubled by John Adshead's men.

SCORE: 3-0 Sydney FC

C.C. Mariners vs Newcastle Jets

Sunday 4th September
CC Mariners vs Newcastle Jets

THE GAME: The only true local derby will no doubt be closely fought, with the odd mis-timed challenge and scuffle thrown in. Expect the away side to aim for a draw against the strong Central Coast side.

PLAYER TO WATCH: Tom Pondeljak will look to carve up opponents once again from his advanced midfield position. The Mariners will hope Nick Mrdja is back in the starting line-up to link up with Pondeljak.

X-FACTOR: What impact will the Marinators have on the match? The small band of hard-core supporters is sure to come out in full force for this encounter, with the obvious aim of spurring their side on to victory.

THE OUTCOME: An intense match will end all square. The Jets may score an early goal to surprise the home side, who will dominate the rest of the match.

SCORE: 1-1

***ALL PREVIEWS COMPILED BY MARK STAVROULAKIS & PETER DAMALAS**

Melbourne Victory vs Perth Glory

Sunday 4th September
Melbourne Victory vs Perth Glory

THE GAME: After a stunning display in Sydney last week, the Victory are looking at producing the same performance at home to Perth Glory, who struggled to get anything from their first home match against the Mariners

PLAYER TO WATCH: An unsung hero, midfielder Carl Recchia showed many people that he will be yet another to watch out for in the Victory squad. His skill and motivation to beat a player was put to the test against Sydney and paid healthy dividends.

X-FACTOR: Melbourne's first home match of the season is billed as a huge spectacle in the city known for being the sporting capital of Australia. With that hype behind then, the public will be out in droves willing their side to victory.

THE OUTCOME: After Glory's route one display of football against the Coast, one must think that coach Steve McMahon won't be resulting to looking for the obvious in Brian Deane this week.

After a cracking display of both attacking and defending football in Sydney, Archie Thompson and co will be too hot to handle for a current out-sort Glory side.

SCORE: 2-1 Melbourne Victory

Goalscorers

1 goal:
***Carl Veart**
(Adelaide United)
***Noel Spencer**
(Central Coast Mariners)
***Dwight Yorke**
(Sydney FC)
***Archie Thompson**
(Melbourne Victory)
***Michael Baird**
(QLD Roar)
***Alex Brosque**
(QLD Roar)

Dwight Yorke is greeted by Sasho Petrovski and Iain Fyfe after scoring Sydney FC's first goal

Fixtures

Round 2

***Friday September 2nd**
Adelaide Utd vs QLD Roar

***Friday September 2nd**
NZ Knights vs Sydney FC

***Sunday September 4th**
CC Mariners vs Newcastle Jets

***Sunday September 4th**
Melbourne Victory vs Perth Glory

A-League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Queensland Roar	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Adelaide United	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Central Coast Mariners	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Melbourne Victory	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sydney FC	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Newcastle Jets	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Perth Glory	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
New Zealand Knights	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

ABSW Tipsters for the Season

Richard Kreider
-QLD Roar
-Syd FC
-CC Mariners
-Draw
2

Joe Russo
-Ade Utd
-SydFC
-Draw
-Melb Victory
2

Peter Damalas
-Ade Utd
-Syd FC
-Draw
-Draw
3

Glenn Davis
-QLD Roar
-Syd FC
-Jets
-Glory
3

Daniela Raco
-Ade Utd
-Syd FC
-Draw
-Glory
1

MarkStavroulakis
-Draw
-Syd FC
-CC Mariners
-Melb Victory
1

'Malcolm'
-Ade United
-Sydney FC
-Draw
-Melb Victory
3

A-LEAGUE FEATURES

★ PLAYER RATINGS ★

Newcastle Jets
Liam Reddy 7
Jade North 6
Craig Deans 6
Ned Zelic 6
Richard Johnson 8
Matt Thompson 6
Ante Milicic 6
Nick Carle 6
Paul Kohler 6
Mark Bridge 6
Alan Picken 5
Subs
Steve Eagleton 6
Stuart Musialik 5
Labinot Haliti 5

Adelaide United
Daniel Beltrame 7
Richard Alagich 7
Kristian Rees 8
Angelo Costanzo 7
Michael Valkanis 7
Ross Aloisi 8
Lucas Pantelis 8
Carl Veart 9
Louis Brain 7
Travis Dodd 8
Adam Van Dommele 7
Subs
Matthew Kemp 6
Chad Bugeja 5

Perth Glory
Jason Petkovic 7
Simon Colosimo 8
Jamie Harnwell 7
Steve McMahon jnr.6
Scott Miller 6
Brian Deane 7
Bobby Despotovski 7
Ante Kovacevic 7
Jamie Coyne 7
Billy Celeski 8
Henry Fa'Arodo 6

C.C. Mariners
John Crawley 6
Noel Spencer 9
Michael Beauchamp 8
Andre Gumprecht 7
Dean Heffernan 7
Tom Pondeljak 8
Damien Brown 8
Stewart Petrie 8
Andrew Clark 7
Matthew Osman 8
Alex Wilkinson 7

QLD Roar
Tom Willis 7
Karl Dodd 7
Remo Buess 7
Chad Gibson 7
Josh McLoughan 7
Massimo Mudocca 8
Royce Brownlie 7
Jonathan Richter 9
Matthew McKay 8
Hyuk-Su Seo 6
Alex Brosque 7.
Subs
Warren Moon 6
Michael Baird 7
Tae-Yong Shin 6

NZ Knights
Danny Milosevic 7
Darren Bazeley 7
Ronnie Bull 7
James Tambouras 7
Danny Hay 8
Neil Emblen 8
Ben Collett 6
Sean Devine 7
Josh Maguire 6
Joshua Rose 7
Jeremy Christie 6
Subs
Steve Fitzsimmons 5
Zenon Caravella 5
Xiaobin Zhang 6

Sydney F.C.
Clint Bolton 8
Andrew Packer 6
Alvin Ceccoli 5
Mark Rudan 5
Iain Fyfe 5
Terry McFlynn 5
Ufuk Talay 5
Steve Corica 6
Dwight Yorke 6
Sasho Petrovski 6
David Zdrilic 5
Subs
David Carney 5
Jacob Timpano 5
Matthew Bingley 5

Melbourne Victory
Eugene Galekovic 7
Carl Recchia 7
Kevin Muscat 7
Geoffrey Claeys 6
Adrian Leijer 6
Steve Pantelidis 5
Kristian Sarkies 6
Michael Ferrante 7
Andy Vlahos 7
Archie Thompson 9
Daniel Allsopp 7
Subs
Chris Tadrosse 6
Ricky Diaco 7

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Jonathan Richter (Queensland Roar)

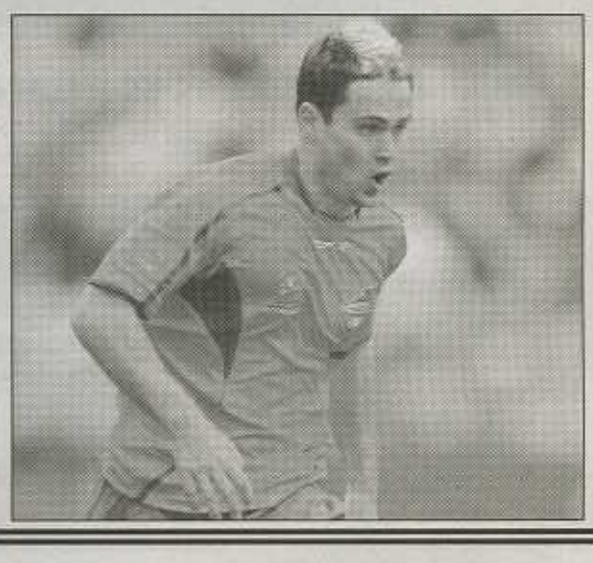
We've been singing this kid's praises since his Northern Spirit days but Jonti Richter certainly stole the show in Queensland Roar's two-nil victory over the New Zealand Knights at Suncorp Stadium last Sunday.

His awareness on and off the ball, his speed and quick direction of skill were only some facets of Richter's game play on the weekend.

The number 11 proved to be one tough customer to cover as the Knights resolved to meaningless fouls on the 22-year-old.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, its lucky that he's already represented Australia in the U20s as performances such as last week could herald a new direction for the former AIS graduate.

Richter also goes down already as sporting the most outrageous hair-style of the A-League with his orange-blonde bleaches Mohawk.



A-LEAGUE BAGS A BRACE

By Marc Fox

Sydney FC's Sasho Petrovski was the player wearing the widest grin after Guus Hiddink announced the striker's inclusion for the games against the Solomon Islands this weekend.

During the latter days of Frank Farina's reign, the 30-year-old former Wollongong and Parramatta forward seemed nowhere near contention for a national team recall. But from the moment Petrovski slotted home Sydney's third in its opening Club World Championship qualifier last May, the net hasn't stopped bulging. His goalscoring displays clearly becoming too regular for the new coach to overlook.

"I am completely blown away," said Petrovski, who made his solitary Socceroo appearance against Japan in 2001. "When I was called up for the camp (in Holland earlier this month), I went over there determined not to make up the numbers and make a difference, and to get this call-up into such a great team for an important match is a thrill.

"I want to make sure that whatever part I play, whether I start a game, come off the bench, be a Super Sub or even just be a squad member, I am going to put pressure on the people in front of me by giving it everything I've got."

Petrovski had been a surprise inclusion for Hiddink's pre-match training camp in Hoenderloo alongside fellow A-League stars Jade North and Archie Thompson plus late call-up Michael Beauchamp. But while Thompson seemed a certainly to survive Hiddink's final cut for the Solomons squad, Petrovski was not.

With his clinical finishing and bundles of goals throughout the season's build-up, he appears to have leapt above team-mate David Zdrilic and Newcastle's Ante Milicic – both having suffered an injury-dogged pre-season – in the pecking order. Together with Thompson, Mark Viduka and John Aloisi, Petrovski forms a potent striking quartet chosen to do the business against the islanders.

His achievement is all the more impressive given Hiddink's determination to select his strongest 22 for the double-header starting in Sydney this Saturday. This group is no shadow squad handed the task of swotting aside what is expected to be an easy foe. The Dutch coach has stood firm in his belief the best players should be picked despite history pointing to a cakewalk for the Socceroos.

"We won't be taking any chances with the all important first qualifying matches against the Solomon Islands," Hiddink said after making his first-ever Socceroo selection.

"So we have picked our strongest squad and all the players are desperate to play, play well, and stake their claim for November and beyond. It is vital that we defeat the Solomon Islands because otherwise our World Cup dreams will be over. If we stumble then, there will be no November."

Hiddink's approach hints at a professionalism and meticulous attention to detail for which he is renowned. When he agreed to take short-term control of a Socceroos squad gliding off-course under the stewardship of Farina, he was naturally conservative in his predictions.

Asked then about Australia's likely participation in its first tournament for over 30 years, Hiddink suggested that qualification for Germany would be a 'miracle', particularly given the short period of preparation time. However, following the Dutchman's first chance of working with the players, he was full of praise for the high commitment levels and enthusiasm shown.

"There is a confidence among the players, I noticed this after two days," Hiddink told journalists on the final day of his intensive four-day training camp. "They are so eager to qualify for the World Cup. For many players this is their last opportunity and they are very committed to take this chance.

The odds of success are greatly increased with an experienced coach like Hiddink at the helm. What the man who has led two different nations to World Cup semi-finals brings to Australia's natural competitiveness is a much-needed technical lesson. For while the Socceroos can never be faulted for effort, tactical naivety has too often let them down, most notably the defensive lapses at June's Confederations Cup.

Looking ahead to Hiddink's first team selection, don't be surprised to see personnel changes. The coach has admitted he was reluctant to analyse recent selections of his predecessor, preferring to concentrate on the way he wants his team to play and the right players to fit into that. Like Farina though, he is believed to favour a 4-5-1 system with fit-again Mark Viduka in line for the lone strikers role after his two-goal heroics for Middlesborough last week. The selection of a healthy and raring Viduka will see Confederations Cup top scorer John Aloisi move to the left-flank should Harry Kewell fail to regain match fitness in time, a possibility looming ever larger with Kewell yet to feature for Liverpool this season.

Brett Emerton is favourite to switch to right-back in place of Kevin Muscat, a position Hiddink saw the Blackburn star adopt during his three-season spell in Holland with Feyenoord. This tactical manoeuvre seems more likely given the absence of Newcastle full-back Jade North from the full squad. Either Marco Bresciano or Ahmad Elrich will get the nod to replace Emerton on the wing. Blackburn's Lucas Neill could retain the left-back berth but with Stan Lazaridis back in contention might move infield to central defence to accommodate the flying Birmingham City star.

Sydney FC and Socceroo striker Sasho Petrovski (left) shown during the Dutch training camp being marked by defender Michael Thwalte (right)

A-League News

MRDJA SIDELINED

The Central Coast Mariners will be without ace striker Nick Mrdja for yet another week after missing out in the club's first match against his old club Perth Glory last week.

Mrdja is recovering from a knee injury sustained this years Hyundai A-League Pre-Season Cup final against the Glory at Central Coast Stadium and has since been asked by doctors to rest it for at least another week.

"Losing Nick is a big blow, but it gives other players in the squad an opportunity to show us what they can do," said Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna.

"Injuries like Nick's will come from time to time so it's important that we have players ready step up when called upon."

Central Coast Mariners have lost the services of Nick Mrdja for yet another week

Joining Mrdja on the Mariners injured list is defender Paul O'Grady, who is set to miss the opening eight rounds, having undergone a hernia operation late last week.

In Mrdja's absence, attacker both Adam Kwasnik and Leo Carle come into contention in filling the star strikers void.

Both have the ability to do a job for the Mariners and will be used wisely by McKinna until Mrdja returns to the team.

"We're really looking forward to seeing Kwas and Leo get some game time because they've both been injured for most of the time they've been with us," said McKinna.

Timpano to learn off fellow defenders

By Mark Stavroulakis

At 19, Sydney FC's Young Socceroo defender Jacob Timpano has had a good run of fortunate during the pre-season series having featured in all of the 'glamour' clubs matches.

An unexpected call-up due to the injury by skipper Mark Rudan allowed the Wollongong born marksman to step up to A-League football.

"It was great being involved in the four matches.

"We conceded two goals in four matches so that was good to know that we kept the back-line sound and solid."

Jacob Timpano: Sydney FC's Young Socceroo defender

With Rudan returning from injury once more, Timpano has been pushed to the bench, but its something the youngster stated he would certainly benefit from.

"I'm looking towards learning from guys like 'Rudes', and Iain Fyfe in getting tips from them in improving my game.

"I'll have to wait and bide my time on the bench until I'm given my chance which if given, I will need to step up."

The tall lurch-like defender bearing the number 17 on his back has been impressed with the recent kits that have been launched by the club.

"Overall, everyone has been given quality gear, ours is pretty good, it should add more excitement to the game having people turn up in the team's home colours."

Sporting giants Reebok have done their bit in adding a bit more spice to the new shirts that will be on display every week by the eight sides.

Elrich junior sets goals

Move over Ahmad because younger brother Tarek is in town. The 17-year-old midfielder has been on cloud 9 since scoring a 3-year-deal with the Jets but will start off by spending the first three months at the club on loan from Sydney Olympic.

Tarek Elrich: Role model for the Lebanese community

Tarek has been targeted by the Jets as a future prospect and why wouldn't you, with Ahmad's recent successful move to English Premier League side Fulham.

Many followers have seen key resemblance in both Elrich brothers style.

Not only by look, but also by the way they attack, run and cross the ball have been seen as nearly identical.

Tarek has also been seen as a main role model for the Lebanese community as being the sole representative in promoting football to the kids.

Punters feverish about A-League odds

Thousands of punters have been eagerly anticipating the start of the new A-League season for not only the football, but the betting as well.

Many were starved from betting Australian football since the demise of the old National League which did generate interest from various punters from across Australia.

Tab odds have Sydney FC as hot favourites to take out the championship this year.

Punters in search of a winner with this seasons A-League

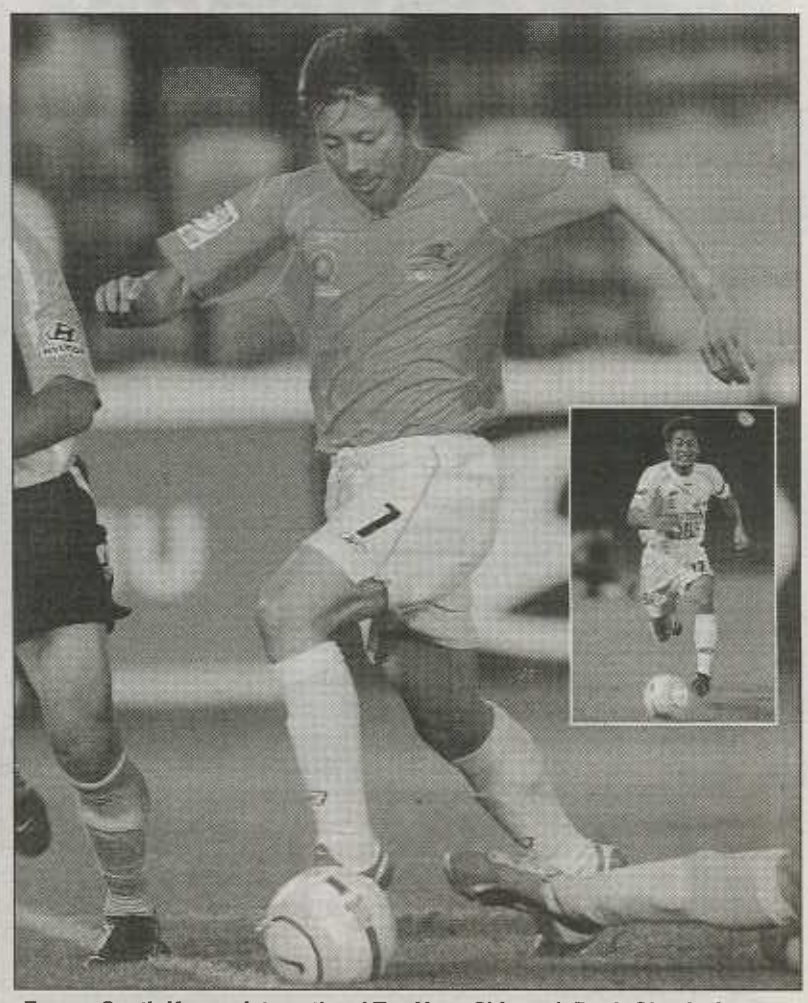
At $1.95, they've been placed quite hear in the pecking order with Perth Glory lapping up at second place with a $7 odd.

The Victory takes third with $8, while the Jets make up the possible top-four at $9.

This years Pre-season cup winners the Mariners are at $10, on equal par with the Queensland Roar while Adelaide ($21) and the New Zealand Knights at $34 make up the final spot.

Betting on overseas football has been a big craze in Australia with many fans choosing the English Premier League and Serie A as they main leagues being concentrated on.

'ASIANS' THE WORD FOR A-LEAGUE



Former South Korean international Tae-Yong Shin and Perth Glory's Japanese import Hiroyuki Ishida (Insert) are some of the Asian stars on show in the A-League this year.

While Australian football's Asian invasion will start in earnest early next year, three A-League clubs have already taken steps to tap into the rich vein of playing talent that exists there.

Queensland Roar, Adelaide United and the New Zealand Knights have signed Asian players for the new national football competition ahead of Australia's entry into the Asian Football Confederation from January 1 next year.

As well as the Socceroos now qualifying for World Cup finals through Asia and playing in its international competitions, the move means A-League clubs will become eligible for the Asian Champions League.

By and large, the old NSL's import players were either English lower division journeymen or former British greats well past their best.

But the Roar was the first and most active A-League club in thinking outside the square and seeking Asian players — signing Korean international midfielders Tae-Yong Shin and Hyuk-Su Seo.

They're not the only ones.

Adelaide has former Chinese international striker Shengqing Qu as its marquee player, while the vibe is strong that the Knights may have signed a potential star in Chinese under-23 midfielder Xiaobin Zhang.

The four Asian imports — among 30 foreigners who will play in the A-League this year — will be watched closely as their success could mean a sea change in the way Australian football recruits from abroad.

Roar coach Miron Bleiberg became interested in recruiting Asian players three years ago on a visit to Brisbane's John Paul College to watch the school's team — which contained several South Koreans.

"I was very impressed — they were very systematic, very organised and played very attacking football," said Bleiberg, who was coaching the Queensland Lions side in the state league at the time.

"I thought if the kids can play like this we should look at signing some players."

"Not long after this, Korea made the semi-finals of the (2002) World Cup and it made up my mind that Koreans had something to offer us."

Bleiberg made contact with player agents representing South Koreans, and once the Roar was confirmed as part of the A-League, set about giving his team a decidedly Asian feel.

Attacking midfielder Shin and holding midfielder Seo look set to be regular first-teamers under Bleiberg, with the Roar's decision to "go Asian" looking a masterstroke now.

Since Queensland's decision to recruit from Korea, the nation's biggest car company Hyundai has become the A-League's major sponsor — giving the Roar a commercial leg-up no other club in the competition has.

Not to mention the spin-offs for the Roar if it finishes first or second in the A-League to qualify for the Asian Champions League.

"Now it looks that from a commercial point of view, this is not a bad idea," Bleiberg said.

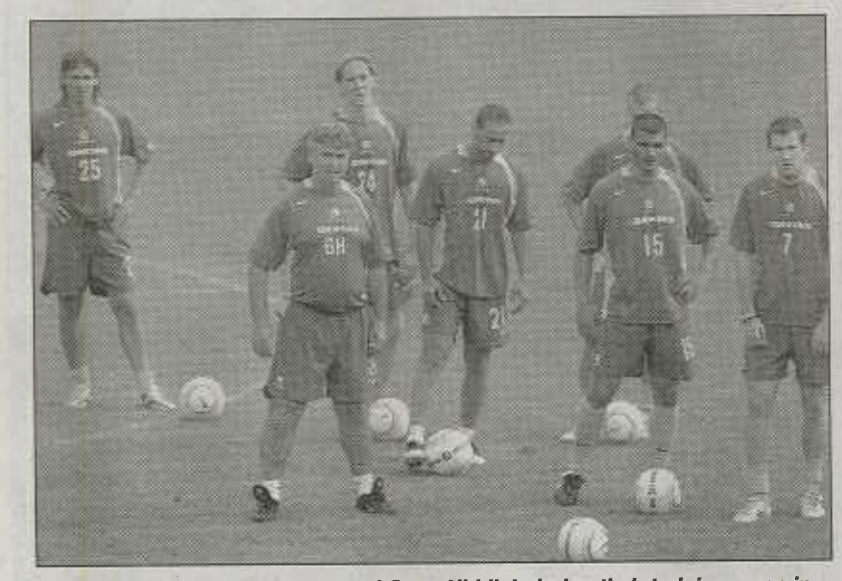
"If we happen to qualify for the Asian Champions League, it will help us in having some local knowledge and popularity-wise."

"And these players we have signed are certainly better than second or third division English players."

Perth Glory also have their input in the Asian market with Japanese import Hiroyuki Ishida while Sydney FC have vowed to loan a guest player during its endeavors in Japan for the World Club Championship.

Socceroos Vs The Solomons

Hiddink to take no chances



Socceroo players gather around Guus Hiddink during their training camp in Holland

Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Guus Hiddink has named a full-strength squad for Australia's Powerade Series matches against the Solomon Islands in early September.

With a chance to progress to the next round of FIFA World Cup 2006 qualification at stake, Hiddink has taken no chances in selecting his strongest possible squad.

"We won't be taking any chances with the all important first qualifying matches against the Solomon Islands," said Hiddink.

"So we have picked our strongest squad, and all the players are desperate to play, play well, and stake their claim for November and beyond."

"It is vital that we defeat the Solomon Islands because otherwise our world cup dreams will be over. If we stumble then there will be no November."

Included in the 22-man squad are two Hyundai A-League players Sasho Petrovski from Sydney FC and Archie Thompson from Melbourne Victory.

"I knew I was in on Friday when I was travelling back (from the Socceroos camp) but I wasn't allowed to go out and spread the word. Now it's my time to release all that excitement and express myself," Petrovski said.

"I've had some very early mornings and I just can't get back to sleep because all of these things are running in my mind. It's a dream come true. I'm just very excited, and probably losing a bit of sleep with all the excitement that's within me."

Petrovski and Thompson were the only two A-League players named in the 22, with Michael Beauchamp (Central Coast), Iain Fyfe, Clint Bolton (Sydney FC), Jade North (Newcastle Jets) and Simon Colosimo (Perth Glory) selected in the train-on squad.

In addition to the squad, five players from Hyundai A-League clubs have been added as train-on squad additions but will be made available to their clubs for their round two matches.

"It is important that the players that are playing in Australia know they are in the running for selection so bringing in these players will give me an opportunity to assess them," added Hiddink.

The winner of the home- and away series will earn the right to face the fifth-placed South American nation in November for the final place at the 2006 FIFA World Cup. SBS TV will show live coverage of the match from Aussie Stadium in Sydney.

SOCCEROO SQUAD

John Aloisi (Alaves, Spain), Marco Bresciano (Parma, Italy), Tim Cahill (Everton, England), Scott Chipperfield (Basel, Switzerland), Jason Culina (Twente Enschede, Holland), Ahmad Elrich (Fulham, England), Brett Emerton (Blackburn Rovers, England), Vince Grella (Parma, Italy), Zeljko Kalac (AC Milan, Italy), Harry Kewell (Liverpool, England), Stan Lazaridis (Birmingham, England), Jon McKain (Politechnica AEK Timisoara, Romania), Craig Moore (Newcastle, England), Lucas Neill (Blackburn Rovers, England), Sasho Petrovski (Sydney FC, Australia), Tony Popovic (Crystal Palace, England), Mark Schwarzer (Middlesbrough, England), Josip Skoko (Wigan, England), Archie Thompson (Melbourne Victory, Australia), Tony Vidmar (NAC Breda, Holland), Mark Viduka (Middlesbrough, England), Luke Wilkshire (Bristol City, England)

Plus: Train-on squad members - Michael Beauchamp (Central Coast Mariners, Australia), Clint Bolton (Sydney FC, Australia), Simon Colosimo (Perth Glory, Australia), Iain Fyfe (Sydney FC, Australia), Jade North (Newcastle Jets, Australia), Alex Brosque (Queensland Roar)

MATCH DETAILS

Game 1: Australia v Solomon Islands
Saturday 3rd September 2005
Aussie Stadium, Sydney
Game 2: Solomon Islands v Australia
Tuesday 6th September 2005
Lawson Tama Stdaium , Solomon Isles

Andrioli announces Solomon squad

New Solomon Islands coach Ayrton Andrioli has named a 20-man squad for next month's Oceania World Cup play-off against Australia.

Three uncapped players have been included, most notably exciting 17-year-old striker Judd Molea, who is on a scholarship at the Queensland Academy of Sport.

The Solomons played warm-up matches against Fiji, a New Zealand XI and A-League side New Zealand Knights before arriving in Sydney ahead of the play-off first leg on September 3.

Andrioli, a former West Adelaide attacker has stated that he will have done his homework and research on the Socceroos squad and that he will have pumped up his chargers for the match of their lives.

The Brazilian coach will look towards star players in Perth Glory's Henry Fa'Arodo and strikers Commins Menapi and Batram Suri as their dangermen.

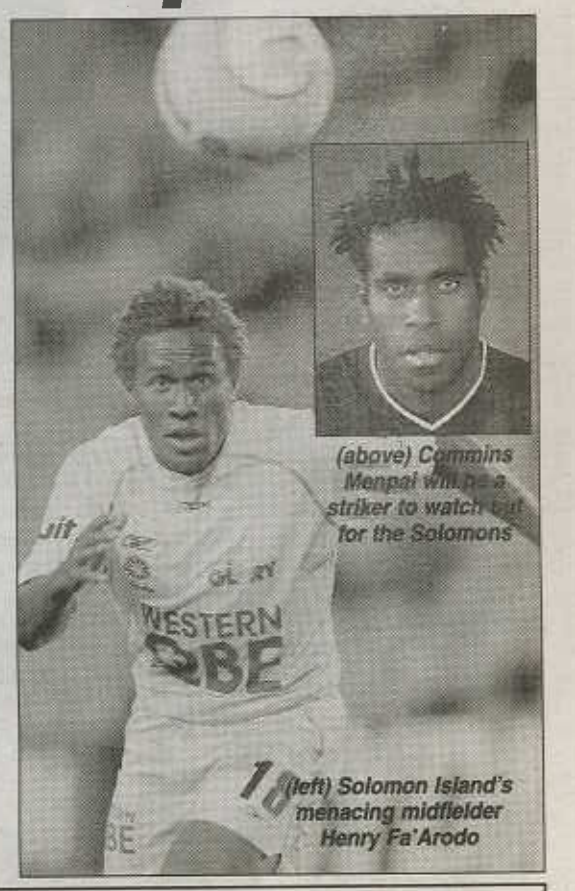
Fa'Arodo has already told media that he will be at his upmost best in trying to score against the Australians and has asked that the locals turn up in droves for their away match on the 6th of September in Honiara.

Solomon Islands squad:

Goalkeepers: Felix Ray, Francis Aruwafu.

Defenders: Leslie Leo, Nelson Sale, Mahlon Houkarawa, Gideon Omokirio, George Suri, Terry Oiaka, Richard Anisua. Midfielders: George Lui, Francis Wasi, Stanley Waita, Jack Samani, Alick Maemae, Abraham Iniga, Henry Fa'Arodo.

Fowards: Commins Menapi, Batram Suri, Kidston Billy, Judd Molea.



(above) Commins Menpai will be a striker to watch out for the Solomons

(left) Solomon Island's menacing midfielder Henry Fa'Arodo

Kewell to show

Coming down-under: Harry Kewell

The question many Australian fans are asking is, will Harry Kewell be here for the World Cup qualifiers?

According to Guus Hiddink, he will be.

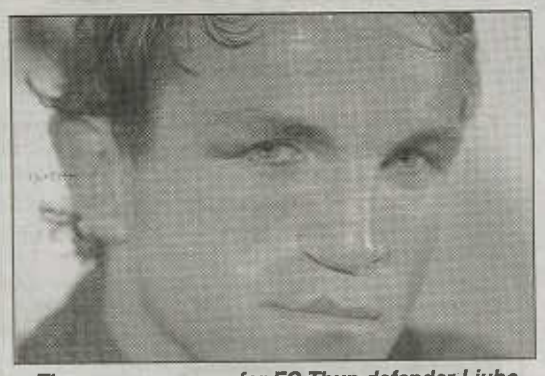
Injured Liverpool star Kewell has been named in the squad, despite having played very little football in the past year due to persistent injury problems.

He was part of a training camp in the Netherlands — the first time Hiddink had seen the squad since his appointment — but did not train with the squad.

Afterwards, Hiddink praised Kewell for his attitude, saying he was clearly committed to the Socceroos' cause.

Sporting a new hair-look, Kewell could be back with Liverpool very soon.

LJUBO LEFT OUT



There was no room for FC Thun defender Ljubo Milicevic in the Socceroo's backline

Ljubo Milicevic became the second defender axed under the Socceroos' new regime as Guus Hiddink named a full-strength 22-man squad for next month's Oceania World Cup qualifiers.

Hiddink said he was taking no chances against the Solomon Islands, picking his best possible line-up for the two-leg playoff and including injured Liverpool forward Harry Kewell as well as Sydney FC bolter Sasho Petrovski.

Australia will play the Solomons in Sydney on September 3 and in Honiara on September 6, with victory pitting the Socceroos against the fifth-placed South American team in November for a place in Germany 2006.

Australia's best though did not include Swiss-based Milicevic, who joined veteran Kevin Muscat as casualties from the Socceroos' under-performing defence at the Confederations Cup in May.

Muscat was left out of Hiddink's 28-player training squad in Hoenderloo, Holland, earlier this month.

And the Melbourne Victory skipper's international career looks all-but over after he also failed to gain a place on an additional five-member train-on squad comprised of A-League talent.

Its believed that 'Muskie' is upset at the way in which his non-inclusion in the squad has been treated after receiving no feedback as to why he was overlooked.

Milicevic has been receiving rave reviews with his Swiss side FC Thun after their Champions League success into the group stages with a an easy victory over Swedish side Malmo.

Ljubo has been touted as being one of this nations next best defenders but has unfortunately been overlooked for this position, much to the surprise of many.

With the ageing defence not getting any younger, Milicevic's no show could of course be a vocal point in the future development of Aussie defenders in the squad.

Midfielders- Marco Bresciano and Vince Grella both return to the squad after skipping the Confederations Cup because of club commitments in Italy.

Stan Lazaridis also returns from injury, as Muscat, Milicevic, Colosimo, Mile Sterjovski and David Zdrilic all depart from Australia's Confederations Cup squad.

The Road to Germany 2006

Its little over 10 months until the world stops yet again for the most amazing footballing spectacle in the world — the World Cup.

Germany has its chance to host the famous event from the 9th June right through to the 9th July where 32 countries will do battle in finding out who will be the World Cup winner for 2006.

Below is a list of all the statistics you need to know on who could be the 32 sides set to take the world stage in Germany.

African zone

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Togo	8	5	2	1	14	6	17
Zambia	8	5	1	2	11	9	16
Senegal	8	4	3	1	17	8	15
Congo	8	3	1	4	8	9	10
Mali	8	1	2	5	9	11	5
Liberia	8	1	1	6	3	19	4

Remaining Fixtures

09-Oct-2005 Congo vs Togo
07-Oct-2005 Senegal vs Mali
07-Oct-2005 Liberia vs Zambia
04-Sep-2005 Togo vs Liberia
03-Sep-2005 Mali vs Congo
03-Sep-2005 Zambia vs Senegal

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	8	4	3	1	11	4	15
South Africa	8	5	0	3	9	9	15
Congo DR	8	3	3	2	10	7	12
Cape Verde Islands	8	3	1	4	7	9	10
Burkina Faso	8	3	0	5	9	10	9
Uganda	8	2	1	5	4	11	7

Remaining Fixtures

08-Oct-2005 Cape Verde Islands vs Ghana
07-Oct-2005 South Africa vs Congo DR
07-Oct-2005 Uganda vs Burkina Faso
04-Sep-2005 Ghana vs Uganda
04-Sep-2005 Congo DR vs Cape Verde Islands
03-Sep-2005 Burkina Faso vs South Africa

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cote d'Ivoire	8	6	1	1	15	3	19
Cameroon	8	5	2	1	14	7	17
Egypt	8	4	1	3	21	13	13
Libya	8	3	2	3	8	9	11
Sudan	8	1	2	5	5	19	5
Benin	8	0	2	6	7	19	2

Remaining Fixtures

09-Oct-2005 Cameroon vs Egypt
07-Oct-2005 Sudan vs Cote d'Ivoire
07-Oct-2005 Benin vs Libya
04-Sep-2005 Egypt vs Benin
04-Sep-2005 Cote d'Ivoire vs Cameroon
02-Sep-2005 Libya vs Sudan

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Angola	8	4	3	1	8	6	15
Nigeria	8	4	3	1	11	4	15
Zimbabwe	8	3	3	2	9	8	12
Gabon	8	2	3	3	11	10	9
Algeria	8	1	4	3	6	10	7
Rwanda	8	1	2	5	5	12	5

Remaining Fixtures

09-Oct-2005 Rwanda vs Angola
07-Oct-2005 Gabon vs Algeria
07-Oct-2005 Nigeria vs Zimbabwe
04-Sep-2005 Algeria vs Nigeria
04-Sep-2005 Angola vs Gabon
04-Sep-2005 Zimbabwe vs Rwanda

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	8	5	2	1	21	7	17
Morocco	8	4	4	0	14	5	16
Guinea	8	3	2	3	10	8	11
Kenya	8	3	1	4	8	12	10
Botswana	8	3	0	5	9	15	9
Malawi	8	0	3	5	8	23	3

Remaining Fixtures

08-Oct-2005 Malawi vs Kenya
07-Oct-2005 Botswana vs Guinea
07-Oct-2005 Tunisia vs Morocco
04-Sep-2005 Guinea vs Malawi
03-Sep-2005 Morocco vs Botswana
03-Sep-2005 Kenya vs Tunisia

**The top five teams in each group qualify for Germany*

Asian zone

GROUP STAGES FINISHED

Remaining Fixtures

Play-offs

3-Sep-2005 Uzbekistan - Bahrain
7-Sep-2005 Bahrain — Uzbekistan

**Winner of this tie plays the fourth-placed side from the CONCACAF zone for a place in Germany.*

European zone

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	8	7	1	0	20	3	22
Czech Republic	8	7	0	1	28	7	21
Romania	10	6	1	3	17	10	19
Finland	8	4	0	4	16	14	12
Macedonia FYR	10	2	2	6	10	19	8
Armenia	9	1	1	7	5	20	4
Andorra	9	1	1	7	4	27	4

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005 Netherlands vs Macedonia FYR
12-Oct-2005 Finland vs Czech Republic
12-Oct-2005 Andorra vs Armenia
08-Oct-2005 Czech Republic vs Netherlands
08-Oct-2005 Finland vs Romania
07-Sep-2005 Netherlands vs Andorra
07-Sep-2005 Finland vs Macedonia FYR)
07-Sep-2005 Czech Republic vs Armenia
03-Sep-2005 Armenia vs Netherlands
03-Sep-2005 Romania vs Czech Republic
03-Sep-2005 Andorra vs Finland

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	9	7	2	0	15	3	23
Turkey	9	4	4	1	19	7	16
Greece	9	4	3	2	12	7	15
Denmark	8	3	3	2	13	8	12
Albania	9	3	0	6	7	16	9
Georgia	8	2	2	4	12	17	8
Kazakhstan	8	0	0	8	3	23	0

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005 Kazakhstan vs Denmark
12-Oct-2005 Albania vs Turkey
12-Oct-2005 Greece vs Georgia
08-Oct-2005 Denmark vs Greece
08-Oct-2005 Ukraine vs Albania
08-Oct-2005 Georgia vs Kazakhstan
07-Sep-2005 Denmarkvs Georgia
07-Sep-2005 Ukraine vs Turkey
07-Sep-2005 Kazakhstan vs Greece
03-Sep-2005 Turkey vs Denmark
03-Sep-2005 Georgia vs Ukraine
03-Sep-2005 Albania vs Kazakhstan

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	8	6	2	0	24	4	20
Slovakia	9	5	3	1	22	7	18
Russia	8	4	3	1	16	11	15
Latvia	9	4	2	3	16	15	14
Estonia	9	3	2	4	12	15	11
Liechtenstein	9	1	2	6	9	19	5
Luxembourg	8	0	0	8	4	32	0

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005 Portugal vs Latvia
12-Oct-2005 Luxembourg vs Estonia
12-Oct-2005 Slovakia vs Russia
08-Oct-2005 Portugal vs Liechtenstein
08-Oct-2005 Russia vs Luxembourg
08-Oct-2005 Slovakia vs Estonia
07-Sep-2005 Liechtenstein vs Luxembourg
07-Sep-2005 Latvia vs Slovakia
07-Sep-2005 Russia vs Portugal
03-Sep-2005 Portugal vs Luxembourg
03-Sep-2005 Russia vs Liechtenstein
03-Sep-2005 Estonia vs Latvia

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland Republic	7	3	4	0	11	4	13
Switzerland	6	3	3	0	13	4	12
Israel	7	2	5	0	10	8	11
France	6	2	4	0	5	1	10
Cyprus	7	1	1	5	7	12	4
Faroe Islands	7	0	1	6	3	20	1

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005 France vs Cyprus
12-Oct-2005 Ireland Republic vs Switzerland
08-Oct-2005 Cyprus vs Ireland Republic
08-Oct-2005 Israel vs Faroe Islands
08-Oct-2005 Switzerland vs France
07-Sep-2005 Cyprus vs Switzerland
07-Sep-2005 Ireland Republic vs France
07-Sep-2005 Faroe Islands vs Israel
03-Sep-2005 France vs Faroe Islands
03-Sep-2005 Switzerland vs Israel

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	6	4	1	1	9	5	13
Norway	6	2	3	1	6	3	9
Slovenia	6	2	3	1	6	5	9
Belarus	6	1	4	1	10	7	7
Scotland	6	1	3	2	3	4	6
Moldova	6	0	2	4	1	11	2

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005 Belarus vs Norway
12-Oct-2005 Slovenia vs Scotland
12-Oct-2005 Italy vs Moldova
08-Oct-2005 Norway vs Moldova
08-Oct-2005 Scotland vs Belarus
08-Oct-2005 Italy vs Slovenia
07-Sep-2005 Moldova vs Slovenia
07-Sep-2005 Belarus vs Italy
07-Sep-2005 Norway vs Scotland
03-Sep-2005 Slovenia vs Norway
03-Sep-2005 Moldova vs Belarus
03-Sep-2005 Scotland vs Italy

Group 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	7	6	0	1	22	5	18
England	6	5	1	0	13	3	16
Austria	6	3	2	1	11	8	11
Northern Ireland	6	0	3	3	5	13	3
Wales	6	0	2	4	5	11	2
Azerbaijan	7	0	2	5	1	17	2

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005 Austria vs Northern Ireland
12-Oct-2005 Wales vs Azerbaijan
12-Oct-2005 England vs Poland
08-Oct-2005 Northern Ireland vs Wales
08-Oct-2005 England vs Austria
07-Sep-2005 Azerbaijan vs Austria
07-Sep-2005 Poland vs Wales
07-Sep-2005 Northern Ireland vs England
03-Sep-2005 Poland vs Austria
03-Sep-2005 Northern Ireland vs Azerbaijan
03-Sep-2005 Wales vs England

Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	7	3	4	0	10	2	13
Serbia & M'tenegro	6	3	3	0	10	0	12
Lithuania	6	2	3	1	7	3	9
Belgium	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Bosnia-Herzegovina	6	1	4	1	7	8	7
San Marino	7	0	0	7	2	23	0

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005 Lithuania vs Belgium
12-Oct-2005 San Marino vs Spain
12-Oct-2005 S & M'tenegro vs B-Herzegovina
08-Oct-2005 Belgium vs Spain
08-Oct-2005 Lithuania vs Serbia & Montenegro
08-Oct-2005 B-Herzegovina vs San Marino
07-Sep-2005 Spain vs Serbia & Montenegro
07-Sep-2005 Belgium vs San Marino
07-Sep-2005 Lithuania vs Bosnia-Herzegovina
03-Sep-2005 Serbia & Montenegro vs Lithuania
03-Sep-2005 Bosnia-Herzegovina vs Belgium

Group 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	6	5	1	0	16	3	16
Sweden	6	5	0	1	23	2	15
Hungary	6	3	1	2	9	11	10
Bulgaria	6	2	2	2	11	11	8
Iceland	7	1	1	5	10	18	4
Malta	7	0	1	6	2	26	1

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005 Sweden - Iceland
12-Oct-2005 Malta - Bulgaria
12-Oct-2005 Hungary - Croatia
08-Oct-2005 Bulgaria - Hungary
08-Oct-2005 Croatia - Sweden
07-Sep-2005 Hungary - Sweden
07-Sep-2005 Bulgaria - Iceland
07-Sep-2005 Malta - Croatia
03-Sep-2005 Hungary - Malta
03-Sep-2005 Iceland - Croatia
03-Sep-2005 Sweden - Bulgaria

**14 teams qualify for the European section (The 1st eight teams automatically qualify while the remaining six spots are fought between the best second placed sides in all the groups)*

Concacaf zone

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	6	5	1	0	11	3	16
USA	6	5	0	1	12	3	15
Costa Rica	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
Guatemala	6	2	1	3	9	9	7
Trinidad and Tobago	6	1	1	4	4	10	4
Panama	6	0	2	4	3	10	2

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005 Trinidad and Tobago vs Mexico
12-Oct-2005 USA vs Panama
12-Oct-2005 Guatemala vs Costa Rica
08-Oct-2005 Panama vs Trinidad and Tobago
08-Oct-2005 Mexico vs Guatemala
08-Oct-2005 Costa Rica vs USA
07-Sep-2005 Mexico vs Panama
07-Sep-2005 Guatemala vs USA
07-Sep-2005 Costa Rica vs Trinidad & Tobago
03-Sep-2005 Panama vs Costa Rica
03-Sep-2005 USA vs Mexico
03-Sep-2005 Trinidad and Tobago vs Guatemala

**The first 3 teams go through to Germany while the fourth placed side takes on the winner of the Asian match between Bahrain and Uzbekistan*

Sth American zone

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	15	9	4	2	27	15	31
Brazil	15	7	6	2	26	16	27
Ecuador	15	7	2	6	21	18	23
Paraguay	15	6	4	5	21	22	22
Colombia	15	5	5	5	20	12	20
Chile	15	5	5	5	17	16	20
Uruguay	15	4	6	5	19	26	18
Peru	15	3	6	6	15	21	15
Venezuela	15	4	3	8	16	23	15
Bolivia	15	4	1	10	17	30	13

Remaining Fixtures

12-Oct-2005 Chile - Ecuador
12-Oct-2005 Paraguay - Colombia
11-Oct-2005 Peru - Bolivia
11-Oct-2005 Brazil - Venezuela
11-Oct-2005 Uruguay - Argentina
09-Oct-2005 Ecuador - Uruguay
08-Oct-2005 Venezuela - Paraguay
08-Oct-2005 Colombia - Chile
08-Oct-2005 Argentina - Peru
08-Oct-2005 Bolivia - Brazil
04-Sep-2005 Uruguay - Colombia
04-Sep-2005 Brazil - Chile
03-Sep-2005 Venezuela - Peru
03-Sep-2005 Paraguay - Argentina
03-Sep-2005 Bolivia - Ecuador

**Top four teams qualify for Germany while the fifth placed side takes on the winner of either Australia or the Solomon Islands for the final World Cup spot.*

Qualified Teams

These teams have already qualified for Germany 2006:

***Japan, *Iran, *Korea Republic, *Saudi Arabia, *Argentina, *Germany**

WORLD NEWS

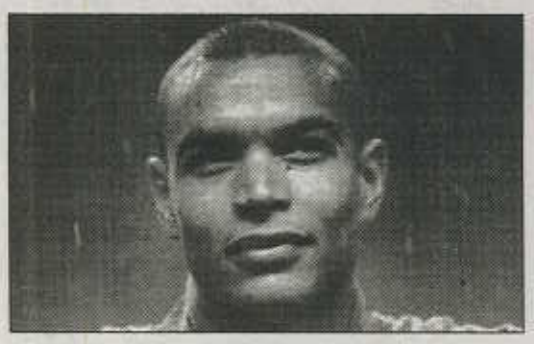
EVERTON IN POLE FOR FERRARI

Roma defender Matteo Ferrari will play on loan at Everton in the 2005-06 campaign, according to the player's agent.

The Italy international, 25, joined Roma last summer from Parma and made 35 league appearances for the Giallorossi last season and will provide defensive cover at Goodison Park.

"Ferrari will play on loan at Everton," his representative Giovanni Corci told Italian radio station Radio Incontro.

Everton will have the option to buy the player's transfer rights next summer for £3.7million.



Roma defender Matteo Ferrari is joining Everton on a loan deal.

Vitalijs Astafjevs claims Latvian players were offeree money to throw the recent World Cup qualifier against Russia.

LATVIA CLAIMS BRIBERY OFFER

Latvia captain Vitalijs Astafjevs said players and team officials were offered large amounts of money to throw the recent World Cup qualifier against Russia, which ended in a 1-1 tie.

Latvian and Russian team officials denied Astafjev's allegations, which were published last week in the Latvian newspaper Sporta Avize.

"Money was offered both to the Latvian Football Federation and to individual players that were contacted by representatives of the Russian side," Astafjevs was quoted as saying. "It was a bribe from the Russian side. They offered money to us to lose the game."

Astafjevs scored Latvia's goal in the game, which left both teams with difficult paths to qualify for next year's World Cup.

Astafjevs did not say how much money was offered, but called the sums 'impressive.'

"The Latvian Football Federation denies that any money has been offered to players, the heads of the Latvian Football Federation or the staff of the national team," Latvian team spokesman Krisjanis Klavins said.

"We will check very carefully into what Astafjevs really said."

Russia's ITAR-Tass news agency quoted the president of the Russian Football Union, Vitaly Mutko, as saying the rumours were 'absolute rubbish.'

Astafjevs, who plays with Russian team Kazan Rubin, said no one on the team accepted the bribe and that he was confident that future games would be settled 'solely on the field.'

Viana is joining Valencia as replacement for injured Brazilian midfielder Edu.

VALENCIA VIE FOR VIANA

Valencia have signed Portugal midfielder Hugo Viana on loan from Newcastle United for this season, the Primera Liga side announced last week.

The 22-year-old, who played on loan at Sporting Lisbon last season, was signed days after Brazilian midfielder Edu tore his cruciate ligament in training.

Valencia said they had an option to buy the midfielder at the end of the loan deal.

Viana was signed by Newcastle on the advice of Bobby Robson from Sporting Lisbon for 8.5 million pounds in July 2002, with a reputation as one of the most promising young players in Europe.

However, he struggled to adapt to English football and returned to Sporting on loan at the start of last season.

The midfielder had been linked with a move to Deportivo Coruna as part exchange for a possible deal for Spanish striker Albert Luque.

MAJOR SERIE A TRANSFERS

ASCOLI

In: Maurizio Domizzi, defender (Sampdoria)
Out: Francesco Modesto, defender (Palermo)

CAGLIARI

In: Alessandro Conticchio, midfielder (Torino).
Out: Edgar Alvarez, defender (Nacional, Uruguay), Rolando Bianchi, striker (Atalanta).

CHIEVO

In: Alberto Fontana, goalkeeper (Inter Milan)
Out: Roberto Baronio, midfielder (Lazio), Matteo Brighi, midfielder (AS Roma)

EMPOLI

In: Gianluca Berti, goalkeeper (Torino), Nicola Pozzi, striker (AC Milan)
Out: Zlatko Dedic, striker (Parma), Luca Saudati, striker (Atalanta)

FIORENTINA

In: Sebastien Frey, goalkeeper (Parma), Alessandro Gamberini, defender (Bologna), Giuseppe Pancaro, defender (AC Milan), Cristian Brocchi, midfielder (AC Milan), Marco Donadel, midfielder (AC Milan), Stefano Fiore, midfielder (Valencia, Spain), Luca Toni, striker (Palermo).

Out: Cristiano Lupatelli, goalkeeper (Parma), Giorgio Chiellini, defender (Juventus), Luca Ariatti, midfielder (Atalanta), Alfonso Camorani,midfielder (Lecce), Enzo Maresca, midfielder (Juventus), Christian Obodo,midfielder (Udinese), Fabrizio Miccoli, striker (Juventus).

INTER MILAN

In: Giovanni Pasquale, defender (Siena), Walter Samuel, defender (Real Madrid, Spain), Luis Figo, midfielder (Real Madrid, Spain), David Pizarro, midfielder (Udinese), Santiago Solari, midfielder (Real Madrid, Spain).

Out: Alberto Fontana, goalkeeper (Chievo Verona), Giovanni Pasquale, defender (Parma), Emre Belozoglu, midfielder (Newcastle United, England), Edgar Davids, midfielder (Tottenham Hotspur, England), Christian Vieri, striker (AC Milan).

JUVENTUS

In: Christian Abbiati, goalkeeper (AC Milan), Giorgio Chiellini, defender (Fiorentina), Robert Kovac, defender (Bayern Munich, Germany), Giuliano Giannichedda, midfielder (Lazio), Enzo Maresca, midfielder (Fiorentina), Igor Tudor, midfielder (Siena), Patrick Vieira, midfielder (Arsenal, England), Fabrizio Miccoli, striker (Fiorentina).

Out: Paolo Montero, defender (San Lorenzo, Argentina), Nicola Legrottaglie, defender (Siena), Olivier Kapo, midfielder (Monaco, France), Enzo Maresca, midfielder (Sevilla, Spain), Alessio Tacchinardi, midfielder (Villarreal, Spain).

LAZIO

In: Manuel Belleri, defender (Udinese), Emilson Cribari, defender (Udinese), Roberto Baronio, midfielder (Chievo Verona), Simone Inzaghi, striker (Sampdoria), Igli Tare, striker (Bologna).

Out: Paolo Negro, defender (Siena), Sebastiano Siviglia, defender (Parma), Leonardo Talamonti, defender (River Plate, Argentina), Giuliano Giannichedda, midfielder (Juventus), Anthony Seric, midfielder (Panathinaikos, Greece), Fabio Bazzani, striker (Sampdoria), Claudio De Sousa, striker (Messina).

LECCE

In: Alfonso Camorani, midfielder (Fiorentina).
Out: Samuele Dalla Bona, midfielder (AC Milan), Sasa Bjelanovic, striker (Genoa).

LIVORNO

In: Luis Fernando Centi, midfielder (Treviso), Stefano Morrone, midfielder(Palermo).
Out: Vidigal, midfielder (Udinese), Luca Vigiani, midfielder (Reggina).

MESSINA

In: Giuseppe Sculli, striker (Brescia), Claudio De Sousa, striker (Lazio).
Out: Dimitrios Eleftheropoulos, goalkeeper (AC Milan), Alessandro Parisi, defender (Genoa).

AC MILAN

In: Dimitrios Eleftheropoulos, goalkeeper (Messina), Zeljko Kalac, goalkeeper (Perugia), Marek Jankulovski, midfielder (Udinese), Johan Vogel, midfielder (PSV Eindhoven, Netherlands), Alberto Gilardino, striker (Parma), Christian Vieri, striker (Inter Milan).

Out: Christian Abbiati, goalkeeper (Juventus), Giuseppe Pancaro, defender (Fiorentina), Cristian Brocchi, midfielder (Fiorentina), Samuele Dalla Bona, midfielder (Sampdoria), Vikash Dhorasoo, midfielder (Paris St Germain, France), Marco Donadel, midfielder (Fiorentina), Hernan Crespo, striker (Chelsea, England), Nicola Pozzi, striker (Empoli), Jon Dahl Tomasson, striker (VfB Stuttgart, Germany).

PALERMO

In: Francesco Modesto, defender (Ascoli), Andrea Gasbarroni, midfielder (Sampdoria), Valerio Virga, midfielder (AS Roma), Andrea Caracciolo, striker (Brescia), Stephen Makinwa, striker (Atalanta).

Out: Antonio Filippini, midfielder (Treviso), Emanuele Filippini, midfielder (Treviso), Stefano Morrone, midfielder (Livorno), Lamberto Zauli, midfielder (Sampdoria), Luca Toni, striker (Fiorentina).

PARMA

In: Cristiano Lupatelli, goalkeeper (Fiorentina), Giovanni Pasquale, defender (Inter Milan), Sebastiano Siviglia, defender (Lazio), Bernardo Corradi, striker (Valencia, Spain), Zlatko Dedic, striker (Empoli).

Out: Sebastien Frey, goalkeeper (Fiorentina), Cesare Bovo, defender (AS Roma), Alberto Gilardino, striker (AC Milan).

REGGINA

In: Ivan Pelizzoli, goalkeeper (AS Roma), Alessandro Zoppetti, defender (Treviso), Luca Vigiani, midfielder (Livorno), Rolando Bianchi, striker (Atalanta).

Out: Marco Zamboni, defender (Sampdoria), Giuseppe Colucci, midfielder (Verona), Erjon Bogdani, striker (Siena), Emiliano Bonazzoli, striker (Sampdoria), Marco Borriello, striker (AC Milan).

ROMA

In: Cesare Bovo, defender (AS Roma), Samuel Kuffour, defender (Bayern Munich, Germany), Matteo Brighi, midfielder (Chievo Verona), Rodrigo Taddei, midfielder (Siena), Shabani Nonda, striker (Monaco, France).

Out: Ivan Pelizzoli, goalkeeper (Reggina), Valerio Virga, midfielder (Palermo).

SAMPDORIA

In: Marco Zamboni, defender (Reggina), Luigi Sala, defender (Atalanta), Samuele Dalla Bona, midfielder (AC Milan), Lamberto Zauli, midfielder (Palermo), Fabio Bazzani, striker (Lazio), Emiliano Bonazzoli, striker (Reggina), Marco Borriello, striker (AC Milan).

Out: Maurizio Domizzi, defender (Ascoli), Andrea Gasbarroni, midfielder (Palermo), Simone Inzaghi, striker (Lazio).

SIENA

In: Nicola Legrottaglie, defender (Juventus), Paolo Negro, defender (Lazio), Erjon Bogdani, striker (Reggina), Roberto Nanni, striker (Dynamo Kiev, Ukraine).

Out: Giovanni Pasquale, defender (Inter Milan), Rodrigo Taddei, midfielder (AS Roma), Igor Tudor, midfielder (Juventus), Massimo Maccarone, striker (Middlesborough, England), Tore Andre Flo, striker (Valerenga, Norway).

TREVISO

In: Antonio Filippini, midfielder (Palermo), Emanuele Filippini, midfielder (Palermo).

Out: Alessandro Zoppetti, defender (Reggina), Luis Fernando Centi, midfielder (Livorno), Paolo Barreto, striker (Udinese).

UDINESE

In: Vincent Candela, defender (Bolton, England), Christian Obodo, midfielder (Fiorentina), Vidigal, midfielder (Livorno), Paulo Barreto, striker (Treviso), Saadi Gheddafi, striker (Perugia).

Out: Manuel Belleri, defender (Lazio), Emilson Cribari, defender (Lazio), Per Kroldrup, defender (Everton, England), Marek Jankulovski, midfielder (AC Milan), David Pizarro, midfielder (Inter Milan).

WORLD NEWS

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS

(August 2005)

1	Brazil	837
2	Argentina	782
3	Netherlands	780
4	Czech Republic	777
5	Mexico	770
6	USA	768
7	England	743
8	Spain	739
9	France	737
9	Portugal	737
11	Germany	722
12	Turkey	712
13	Italy	711
14	Republic of Ireland	709
15	Iran	708
15	Sweden	708
17	Japan	706
18	Greece	696
18	Denmark	696
20	Croatia	693
21	Costa Rica	692
22	Poland	688
23	Korea Republic	681
24	Colombia	678
25	Uruguay	675
26	Egypt	671
27	Saudi Arabia	665
28	Cameroon	663
29	Russia	655
30	Nigeria	650
31	Tunisia	649
31	Romania	649
33	Ecuador	648
34	Morocco	642
35	Paraguay	640
36	Norway	639
36	Ukraine	639
38	South Africa	632
39	Honduras	631
40	Senegal	628
41	Jamaica	626
42	Switzerland	622
43	Finland	617
44	Côte d'Ivoire	616
45	Slovakia	611
46	Bulgaria	606
47	Israel	596
48	Slovenia	595
49	Serbia and Montenegro	593
50	Bahrain	591
51	Zimbabwe	587
52	Belgium	585
53	Trinidad and Tobago	574
54	China PR	572
54	Kuwait	572
56	Zambia	569
57	Australia	568
57	Iraq	568
59	Guatemala	567
60	Mali	566
61	Belarus	565
62	Uzbekistan	561
63	Jordan	560
64	Latvia	559
65	Hungary	557
66	Togo	555
67	Venezuela	550
68	Oman	549
68	Qatar	549
70	Ghana	547
71	Austria	546
71	Angola	546
73	Chile	545
74	Cuba	544
75	Libya	543
75	Peru	543
77	Panama	540
78	Bosnia-Herzegovina	533
79	Congo DR	528
80	Kenya	525
81	Algeria	521
82	Estonia	518
83	Wales	517
84	Canada	513
85	United Arab Emirates	508
86	Scotland	504
87	Albania	499
87	Haiti	499
89	Korea DPR	498
90	Guinea	496
91	Burkina Faso	489

Diego remembers 'Hand of God'

Diego Maradona acknowledged on Argentine television that he struck the ball with his hand in the infamous "Hand of God" goal against England in the 1986 World Cup quarter-finals.

Maradona has previously admitted to the hand-ball goal, but gave his most detailed comments yet during the second weekly installment of his locally broadcast talk show overnight.

Maradona called the tipped goal "something that just came out of me. It was a bit of mischief".

He said he was unable to reach the ball for a header because England goalkeeper Peter Shilton "was very tall. He didn't see anything, and a teammate told him" afterward what happened.

Maradona, who was Argentina's captain, said he quickly realised the referee allowed the goal but none of his teammates rushed to celebrate with him - themselves disbelieving.

"I was waiting for my teammates to embrace me and no one came. I told them, come hug me or the referee isn't going to allow it."

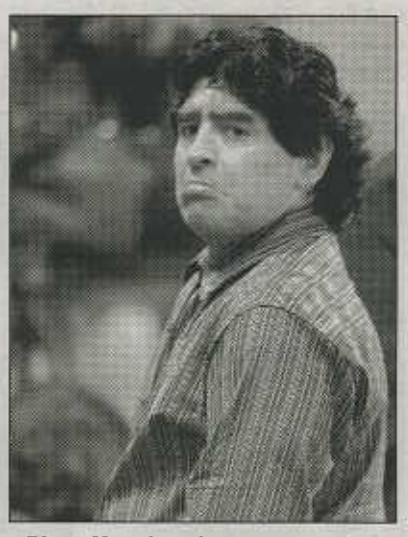
Replays clearly showed the foul, but the goal helped propel Argentina to a 2-1 victory. Maradona also scored the second goal, which has been dubbed the "Feet of a God" goal, and which FIFA declared to be the greatest ever in World Cup competition.

Maradona dribbled half the length of the field, dodging and outrunning nine English players.

In his 20-year career before retiring in 1997, Maradona starred at Argentinos Juniors and Boca Juniors and in Europe. He also led Argentina to the 1990 World Cup final and won Italian and Argentine league titles. In 2000, FIFA chose him and Pele as the best players in football history.

In 1991, Maradona failed a drug test and was banned for 15 months.

Maradona's new television show - called The Night of 10 in reference to his famously numbered jersey - comes only weeks after he was appointed vice president of his beloved Boca Juniors club.



Diego Maradona has owned up that he did in fact handle the ball against England during the World Cup in Mexico

Pele was one of his first guests on last week's inaugural show, and Argentina's NBA star, Manu Ginobili, who helped the San Antonio Spurs to two championships in three years, was on his latest program.

The Boca job, coupled with his prime-time television debut, marked a wholesale return to the limelight for Maradona since he retired from football amid cocaine addiction and health problems.

Maradona, 45, has recently dropped weight, unveiling a slimmer profile after stomach stapling surgery. He also has been jetting around the world, making appearances as a broadcast commentator at European football matches, and taking part in celebrity charity events. At least one movie documentary on his life is also in the works.

Villa complete Baros capture

Czech Republic striker Milan Baros joined Aston Villa from European champions Liverpool for STG6.5 million ($A15.55 million).

The 23-year-old has signed a four-year contract with Villa.

"Of course, I am very pleased to join Villa. It is not easy to leave Liverpool but Villa are also a big club, so I am happy to come here," Baros told the Villa website.

"Hopefully, my best years are still to come. I am still young and very ambitious. I want to achieve things here with Aston Villa."

Baros said Villa manager David O'Leary and midfielder Patrik Berger, a fellow Czech, had influenced his decision to move clubs.

"I spoke to David O'Leary at length and he was a big factor in my deciding to come here," he said.

Milan Baros has been snapped up by Aston Villa

"It was a big decision for me, but if the manager wants you it is easier. I used to play alongside Patrik Berger at Liverpool and also with the Czech Republic and he said many good things about Villa."

"I think there are some quality players here and hopefully we can qualify to play in Europe next season."

Baros joined Liverpool from Banik Ostrava for STG3.6 million ($A8.61 million) in December 2001 and was under contract with the club until 2007.

He has scored 25 goals in 40 appearances for the Czech Republic, including five at Euro 2004 in Portugal where he was the tournament's top scorer.

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS

(August 2005)

92	FYR Macedonia	488
92	Lithuania	488
94	Iceland	486
95	Thailand	485
96	Syria	481
97	Indonesia	478
98	Gabon	476
99	Singapore	474
100	Bolivia	473
101	Botswana	472
102	Sudan	467
103	Georgia	460
104	Rwanda	457
105	Cyprus	443
106	Vietnam	441
107	Turkmenistan	437
108	Malawi	434
109	New Zealand	431
110	Uganda	423
111	Congo	417
111	Malaysia	417
113	Lebanon	414
113	Moldova	414
115	El Salvador	412
116	Northern Ireland	410
116	Azerbaijan	410
118	St. Lucia	405
119	Hong Kong	391
120	Barbados	390
120	Armenia	390
122	St. Kitts and Nevis	381
123	Cape Verde Islands	379
124	Yemen	376
125	Benin	362
126	Faroe Islands	360
127	Ethiopia	359
128	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	358
129	Swaziland	354
130	Mozambique	352
130	Liberia	352
132	India	350
133	Palestine	349
134	Andorra	346
135	Tahiti	345
136	Solomon Islands	339
137	Fiji	338
138	Malta	334
139	Liechtenstein	331
140	Sri Lanka	325
141	Tajikistan	321
142	Maldives	320
143	Burundi	313
144	Mauritius	311
144	Myanmar	311
146	Lesotho	305
147	Vanuatu	299
148	Kazakhstan	296
149	Grenada	288
150	Madagascar	280
151	Surinam	275
152	Kyrgyzstan	268
153	Chinese Taipei	260
154	Antigua and Barbuda	253
155	Luxembourg	252
156	Nicaragua	244
157	Bermuda	240
157	Chad	240
159	Namibia	237
160	Gambia	236
161	San Marino	229
162	Sierra Leone	218
163	Laos	217
164	British Virgin Islands	214
165	Papua New Guinea	213
166	Netherlands Antilles	205
167	Dominica	197
168	Bangladesh	195
169	Eritrea	186
169	Pakistan	186
171	Equatorial Guinea	182
172	Dominican Republic	178
173	Tanzania	167
174	Seychelles	166
175	Niger	162
176	Mauritania	157
177	Cayman Islands	154
178	Samoa	151
178	Nepal	151
180	Belize	141

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

English foes meet again

The holders Liverpool FC were paired with fellow English side Chelsea FC in today's draw for the group stage of the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League.

Liverpool were among 12 former European Champion Clubs' Cup winners and five newcomers divided into eight four-team groups at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco.

Liverpool eliminated Chelsea at the semi-final stage last season, although the London side went on to win the Premiership having already defeated the Reds in the final of the English League Cup.

The Premiership giants will come up against RSC Anderlecht and Spanish opposition in the form of Real Betis

in Group G. There is also a repeat of the other 2005 semi-final in Group E, where the beaten finalists AC Milan face PSV Eindhoven in addition to FC Schalke 04 of Germany and Fenerbahce SK.

Madrid, the most successful club in the history of the competition with nine triumphs, are in one of the most attractive pools, Group F, alongside French champions Olympique Lyonnais, Greek counterparts Olympiacos CFP and perennial group stage contenders Rosenborg BK. FC Bayern Munchen will vie for Group A supremacy with Juventus FC, although Club Brugge KV proved their mettle when overcoming Vålerenga IF on penalties to reach the group stage last night. SK Rapid Wien are the fourth team in the section.

Villarreal CF striker Diego Forlan faces a return to Manchester United FC in Group D, and trips to Lille and SL Benfica. More past winners come together in a Group H featuring FC Internazionale Milano, FC Porto, Rangers FC and FC Artmedia Bratislava - the Slovakian surprise package who have already put out one Scottish side in Celtic FC. In Group B, four-times winners AFC Ajax encounter Arsenal FC, AC Sparta Praha and FC Thun, the Swiss outfit who are competing in this company for the first time.

FC Barcelona, Panathinaikos FC and Werder Bremen will contest Group C along with another of the teams who qualified this week, Udinese Calcio.

During the group stage, each club will play three matches on a Tuesday and three on a Wednesday, starting with the first of six Matchdays on 13/14 September. The remaining dates are: 27/28 September, 18/19 October, 1/2 November, 22/23 November and 6/7 December.

The group winners and runners-up advance to the knockout stage, with the third-placed side moving into the third round of the UEFA Cup. The final will take place at the Stade de France on 17 May 2006 - 50 years after Paris staged the first final, won by Madrid.

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez (left) and Chelsea's Jose Mourinho will pit their wits again

2005/06 UEFA CUP FIRST ROUND:

Auxerre - Levski
Hamburg - Kobenhavn
Slavia - Cork
PAOK - Metalurh
Dinamo Bucuresti - **Everton**
Grasshoppers - MyPa
Crvena Zvezda - **Braga**
Germinal Beerschot - **Marseille**
Leverkusen - CSKA Sofia
CSKA Moskva - Midtjylland
Setubal - **Sampdoria**
Sevilla - Mainz
Basel - Siroki Brijeg
Feyenoord - Rapid
Hibernian - **Dnipro**
Rennes - **Osasuna**
Guimaraes - Wisla
Krylya Sovetov - **Alkmaar**
Stuttgart - Domzale
Valerenga - Steaua
GAK - **Strasbourg**
Brann - **Lokomotiv Moskva**
Palermo - Anorthosis
Halmstad - **Sporting**
Middlesbrough - Xanthi
M. Petach-Tikva - **Partizan**
Roma - Aris
Besiktas - Malmo
Litex - **Genk**
Baník - **Heerenveen**
APOEL - **Hertha**
Teplice - **Espanyol**
Monaco - Willem II
Viking - Austria
Brondby - Zurich
Lens - Groclin
Tromso - **Galatasaray**
Bolton - Loko Plovdiv
Shakhtar - Debrecen
Zenit - **AEK**

**1st Leg 15-September*
**2nd Leg 29-September*
ABSW Tips in bold

2005/06 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUPS:

Group A
Bayern Munchen (GER)
Juventus FC (ITA)
Club Brugge KV (BEL)
SK Rapid Wien (AUT)

Group B
Arsenal (ENG)
AFC Ajax (NED)
AC Sparta Praha (CZE)
FC Thun (SUI)

Group C
Barcelona (ESP)
Panathinaikos FC (GRE)
Werder Bremen (GER)
Udinese Calcio (ITA)

Group D
Manchester United (ENG)
Villarreal (ESP)
Lille (FRA)
SL Benfica (POR)

Group E
AC Milan (ITA)
PSV Eindhoven (NED)
FC Schalke 04 (GER)
Fenerbahce SK (TUR)

Group F
Real Madrid (ESP)
Olympique Lyonnais (FRA)
Olympiacos CFP (GRE)
Rosenborg BK (NOR)

Group G
Liverpool (ENG, holders)
Chelsea (ENG)
RSC Anderlecht (BEL)
Real Betis (ESP)

Group H
Internazionale Milano (ITA)
Porto (POR)
Rangers FC (SCO)
FC Artmedia Bratislava (SVK)

**Matches start on the 13/14 September*
**ABSW tips to progress to the next phase in Bold*

Gerrard claims European accolade

English-based players dominated the UEFA Club Football Awards ceremony in Monaco this year.

On the eve of the UEFA Super Cup, the traditional curtain-raiser to a new European season, and following the draw for the UEFA Champions League group stage this afternoon, Liverpool FC captain Steven Gerrard collected the Most Valuable Player award, while Chelsea FC pair Petr Cech and John Terry received the Best Goalkeeper and Best Defender accolades respectively.

Gerrard was an inspiration for Liverpool on their way to glory in the 2004/05 Champions League, scoring the goal against Olympiacos CFP last December that took Rafael Benítez's side into the knockout stages of the competition.

The English international midfielder crowned an exceptional campaign with the Reds' first goal in the final against AC Milan in Istanbul, sparking the Merseysiders' fightback from 3-0 down to victory on penalties.

The 25-year-old therefore becomes the first captain of a Champions League-winning team to claim the Most Valuable Player award, although David Beckham (1999), Fernando Redondo (2000), Stefan Effenberg (2001), Zinedine Zidane (2002) and Deco (2004) all received the accolade in the same year they helped their respective sides triumph in Europe's premier club tournament.

After collecting his award from UEFA President Lennart Johansson, Gerrard said: "I am still in shock. When I think of some of the players that have won this in the past, it is unbelievable. I am really honoured to be here. The Champions League is my favourite competition and I hope I will be involved in it for a long time."

Gerrard's international team-mate Terry also enjoyed an excellent season in 2004/05, captaining Chelsea to their first English title in 50 years (and second overall) and scoring the goal that knocked FC Barcelona out of the Champions League as the west London club reached the semi-finals before losing to Liverpool. Terry, 24, missed only two games to help Chelsea to the Premiership crown by a 12-point margin.

Another crucial factor in that success was the form of Czech international Cech, who conceded just 13 goals in 35 Premiership appearances and sat out only one of Chelsea's 12 Champions League matches.

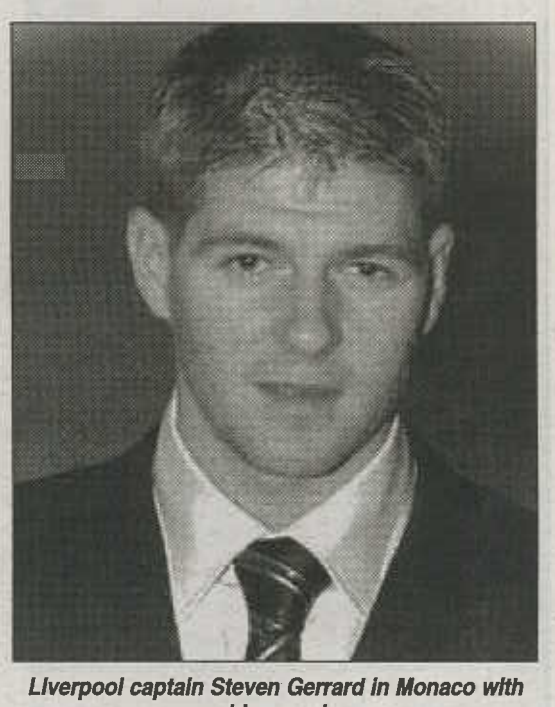
The 23-year-old becomes the second player from the Czech Republic to win a prize at the ceremony, following Pavel Nedved's Best Midfielder gong of 2003.

The remaining two winners were both Brazilian. Despite his side faltering at the last in both the Champions League and Serie A, Milan's Kaka claimed the Best Midfielder award having scored seven times in the Italian top flight and appeared in every leg of his team's run to Istanbul.

Kaka's compatriot Ronaldinho was voted Best Forward and, remarkably, was the first Barcelona player to have his achievements recognised at the ceremony.

The 25-year-old was the genius behind the club's first Primera Division title in six seasons with nine goals, and also registered four in the Champions League including spectacular strikes against Milan and Chelsea.

In addition, a number of special presentations took place, with Champion Coach awards going to Benítez and Valeri Gazzaev, the men behind Champions League winners Liverpool and PFC CSKA Moskva, triumphant in the 2004/05 UEFA Cup, respectively.



Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard in Monaco with his award

ITALIAN SERIE A

Italian Affair

By Joe Russo

Let the fun and games begin as the Serie A gets into full swing for another season. Italian off seasons are full of madness, but somehow this latest one was up there with the best of them.

As Italian Affair gets underway for a tenth season a big thank you must go to you, the loyal readers of ABSW, who have allowed me to write about a football competition that brings so much joy to millions world wide.

★★★★★

One of the better things to emerge over the summer break was the fact that television replays will be used more this season to determine bans for players.

Players, who cowardly simulate offenses in order to 'milk' a free kick or penalty, including those who score with their hands, can expect to receive harsh penalties.

It was not before time that the Serie A got with the technology and used it to clean up one of the biggest blights on the game.

★★★★★

Interesting to read that Lazio goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi has turned down the chance of a move to Roma, his former club and of course bitter cross-town rivals.

Roma were hoping to lure Peruzzi back to the club where he spent three seasons. However, those fans with longer memories will recall that Peruzzi was banned for a year while at Roma for taking a banned substance.

On the subject of goalkeepers a bouquet must go to AC Milan for taking the plunge on Zeljko 'Spider' Kalac.

The former Sydney United custodian who spent three years at Perugia, including last season in the Serie B with the club where it is alleged he wasn't paid his full amount owed in wages, jumped at the chance to join one of the great clubs in the world.

It is arguably the biggest signing for an Australian in European football. Yes, we've had Mark Bosnich at Manchester Utd for a short time and Harry Kewell is still at Liverpool, but surely cracking it for a contract at AC Milan is something else.

Dida, the Brazilian goalkeeper, will still be AC Milan's first choice but Kalac could get a lucky break. Should injury and/or international duty prevent him from playing, then the lanky goalkeeper from Sydney's Western Suburbs will come into his own.

One of Spider's team-mates will be Sydney restaurant owner Christian Vieri who transferred to AC Milan after six seasons at Inter. With many people believing that Vieri's best was behind him, the big striker is proving all and sundry wrong.

Not only has Vieri been most impressive in AC Milan's matches to date, he has also regained with aplomb his place in the Italian national team. It is great to see the big striker prove his critics wrong.

★★★★★

AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti has stated that he would like to coach a national team, not necessarily Italy, at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Meanwhile he is hoping to extend his contract with the club until 2009 which would mean that he had spent nine seasons with the Milan giants.

Ancelotti was criticised after AC Milan lost the 'unloseable' match against Liverpool in the Champions League final in Istanbul.

★★★★★

There was a viewer poll recently on SBS television asking whether the Serie A had lost some of its glamour in recent years. An overwhelming majority voted 'yes'.

Now there is no doubt that that is the perception amongst a lot of people but, despite all the off field drama in Italy, the quality of on-field football is as good as ever.

One of the reasons that the Serie A seems to lack appeal is the television coverage fiasco.

In coming weeks we will examine the impact in Italy of national state broadcaster Rai losing the rights. However, sadly, here in Australia especially on free-to-air, we have gone backwards in leaps and bounds in recent years.

SBS, the leading football channel, since its inception in 1980, has failed for a variety of reasons to secure coverage of the Serie A for about five years.

Given that pay television is also ignoring to a large extent the Serie A, it might be an opportune time for SBS to try to secure some coverage because there is a real niche market for it out there.

Sydney readers can tune into Sunday Night Soccer, on 98.5 FM every Sunday at 10.00pm, for all the latest local and international football news.

LIVORNO 2
LECCE 1

Italy international Cristiano Lucarelli, top scorer in Serie A last season with 24 goals, was the first man on target this season when he fired Livorno into a 12th-minute lead with a superbly taken goal after a sharp turn to lose two markers.

Lucarelli went close to making it 2-0 when he headed a Marc Pfertzel cross against the post in the 28th minute but Lecce levelled 10 minutes later when Souleymane Diamoutene was hauled down by Chilean defender Jorge Vargas and Alex Pinardi slotted home the penalty.

Raffaele Palladino decided the game for Livorno three minutes after the restart when he burst into the area and unleashed a powerful right-foot shot.

ASCOLI 1
AC MILAN 1

The biggest surprise of the opening weekend of the season with the title contenders held at the unfancied new arrivals in a game played on a near waterlogged surface.

Ascoli went ahead in the 58th minute when Milan keeper Dida pushed out a header from Fabio Quagliarella and Mirko Cudini reacted quickly to fire home.

Five minutes later, though, Milan levelled when Andriy Shevchenko collected the ball on the turn and burst goalwards before rattling home a powerful drive. The Ukrainian then missed a great opportunity to win the game for Milan, shooting over the bar from close range.

INTER MILAN 3
TREVISO 0

Brazilian Adriano wasted no time in making his mark on the new season with a blistering hat-trick which started with a fine solo goal after 32 minutes.

The striker chased a ball out wide and then cut inside before firing inside the near post. After the break, Serb Dejan Stankovic set up Adriano's second with a flighted ball into the area. Chilean substitute David Pizarro then jinked his way through the Treviso defence to set up the Brazilian for his third.

JUVENTUS 1
CHIEVO VERONA 0

France striker David Trezeguet decided a low-key game with a glancing header in the 36th minute from a Gianluca Zambrotta cross after going close earlier with two well-struck efforts.

Champions Juve, who left Alessandro Del Piero on the bench throughout, eased off in the second half but were never in danger from an unadventurous Chievo.

LAZIO 1
MESSINA 0

After Lazio keeper Angelo Peruzzi kept out an overhead kick from Messina's Riccardo Zampagna, the game was decided when Macedonian Goran Pandev slotted home a cross by Massimo Oddo to give the Rome side a winning start.

Lazio could be in trouble with the authorities again, though, after Messina's Ivory Coast defender Zoro was subjected to racial abuse throughout the game.

Luis Figo on the attack for Inter in their match against Treviso

Stefano Fiore (left) embraces goalscorer Luca Toni in Fiorentina's 2-1 win over Sampdoria in the first round of the Serie A season

PARMA 1
PALERMO 1

Palermo, under new coach Luigi Del Neri, took the lead when Christian Terlizzi hooked in a Eugenio Corini free kick at the near post in the 36th minute.

The introduction of Domenico Morfeo after the break rejuvenated Parma and they drew level when former Inter fullback Giovanni Pasquale picked out Australian international Mark Bresciano who blasted home.

REGGINA 0
AS ROMA 3

With contract rebel Antonio Cassano left on the bench, Luciano Spalletti's new-look Roma made a great start with Brazilian Mancini opening the scoring on the half hour.

Daniele De Rossi made it 2-0 right after the break, poking home a low free-kick from Francesco Totti, before substitute Shabani Nonda marked his debut with a goal in injury time.

SIENA 2
CAGLIARI 1

Italy international Mauro Esposito put the visitors ahead in the 10th minute after a burst of pace took him through the middle of the Siena defence but two goals from the experienced Enrico Chiesa secured the points for the Tuscans, his first from the penalty spot.

UDINESE 1
EMPOLI 0

Empoli fought hard but a strike from Sulley Muntari, after a neat pass from Christian Obodo, in the 30th minute put Udinese ahead at the end of a week in which they qualified for the Champions League for the first time.

Udinese had some scares, though, and right at the end defender Cesare Natali was forced to clear off the line.

FIORENTINA 2
SAMPDORIA 1

Italy international Toni was influential on his debut for Fiorentina, setting up the opener in the 12th minute when his fierce shot was parried by Samp keeper Francesco Antonioli, but only as far as Stefano Fiore who reacted well to head home.

Toni made it 2-0 on the half hour from the penalty spot after he had been brought down inside the area by Marcello Castellini.

Samp fought back well after the break and levelled in the 74th minute through a deflected volley from Aimo Diana but Fiorentina handled the late pressure and could have added a third before the end.

SERIE A FIXTURES

(Full listing in this week's back page)

Action between AC Milan and Ascoli

SERIE A

Livorno 2 Lecce 1, Fiorentina 2 Sampdoria 1, Ascoli 1 AC Milan 1, Inter Milan 3 Treviso 0, Lazio 1 Messina 0, Parma 1 Palermo 1, Reggina 0 Roma 3, Siena 2 Cagliari 1, Udinese 1 Empoli 0, Juventus 1 Chievo 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Inter Milan	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**
2. Roma	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
3. Fiorentina	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
4. Livorno	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
5. Siena	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
6. Juventus	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
7. Lazio	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
8. Udinese	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
9. Ascoli	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
10. Milan	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
11. Palermo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
12. Parma	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
13. Cagliari	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
14. Lecce	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
15. Sampdoria	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
16. Chievo	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
17. Empoli	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
18. Messina	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
19. Reggina	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
20. Treviso	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Serie B stats to appear in next week's ABSW

ENGLISH

ASTON VILLA 1
BLACKBURN 0

Czech striker Milan Baros, bought from Liverpool last week, wasted little time in winning over the Aston Villa fans by scoring the only goal after 11 minutes.

Baros looked lively throughout and was denied a second only by a superb Brad Friedel save.

Villa should have had more in the second half but the nearest they came was when Kevin Phillips struck the woodwork five minutes from time.

FULHAM 1
EVERTON 0

Fulham's dominance of Everton at Craven Cottage continued as they made it seven successive wins in the fixture.

American striker Brian McBride stroked in the only goal against his former club in the 57th minute as Fulham just about shaved it.

Everton went out of the Champions League on Wednesday and their frustrating week was completed by a late red card for midfielder Phil Neville.

MANCHESTER CITY 2
PORTSMOUTH 1

City came from behind to seal a rare home win and continue their excellent start to the season.

Colombian midfielder John Viafara put Portsmouth ahead against the run of play with a glancing header seven minutes into the second half.

City levelled in the 66th minute when Claudio Reyna reacted sharply after Sander Westerveld spilled a shot and Andy Cole completed the comeback with a sharp turn three minutes later.

TOTTENHAM 0
CHELSEA 2

Chelsea made it 31 league games unbeaten against Spurs in the top-of-the-table clash but the contest was pretty much decided by striker Mido's 26th-minute red card for elbowing Asier de Horno who headed the opening goal soon after.

Tottenham battled well but were finished off in the 71st minute when Damien Duff's miscued shot wrong-footed England goalkeeper Paul Robinson.

WEST HAM UTD 1
BOLTON WANDERERS ..2

West Ham's encouraging start to life in the Premier League was brought to an end by Bolton, who rode their luck in the first half.

Spaniard Ivan Campo lashed a 25-metre shot against the bar before Jay Jay Okocha had a shot blocked on the line and midfielder Kevin Nolan poked in the rebound on the hour.

West Ham's veteran striker Teddy Sheringham rattled the bar with a free kick 10 minutes from time, and Bolton made the most of their escape as Campo scored the second on the break five minutes later.

Sheringham slotted an injury time consolation from the penalty spot.

Who needs Liverpool? - Aston Villa's new signing Milan Baros became an instant hero after scoring the only goal of the game that gifted his new side a win over Blackburn

WIGAN 1
SUNDERLAND 0

Wigan picked up their first Premier League points thanks to a Jason Roberts penalty in the second minute.

Sunderland hit back to create a series of chances but failed to take any of them. Their fourth defeat of the season made it 19 in a row in the Premier League including the end of their 2003-04 relegation campaign.

WEST BROM 2
BIRMINGHAM CITY ...3

Emile Heskey scored twice as Birmingham beat their midlands rivals for their first win of the season in a lunchtime kickoff.

Birmingham led 3-1 at the break, Jiri Jarosik also scoring, and despite Geoff Horsfield getting his second goal of the game midway through the second half, Birmingham held on.

NEWCASTLE UTD 0
MANCHESTER UTD ...2

Manchester United also made it three in a row against a Newcastle side who have yet to score and have just one point from their first four games.

Wayne Rooney scored the opener after 66 minutes, nipping in sharply to drive home after Newcastle defender Jean-Alain Boumsong had failed to cut out a routine Edwin van der Sar clearance.

Manchester United, who have yet to concede a goal, were rarely troubled at the back and completed an excellent victory in stoppage time when Rooney's cross again embarrassed Boumsong and gave striker Ruud van Nistelrooy a tap-in.

MIDDLESBROUGH 0
CHARLTON 3

Charlton secured their third successive victory and their best-ever start in the Premier League with an assured display.

Dennis Rommedahl put them ahead in the 38th minute, defender Chris Perry dispatched a well-taken second in the 81st -- both set up by midfielder Danny Murphy – with Darren Bent adding his fourth of the season in injury time.

Ivan Campo celebrated his second goal of the Premier League campaign in Bolton's 2-1 win over the Hammers

Fists flared after Spurs striker Mido (left) was sent off for elbowing Chelsea defender Asier de Horno. Chelsea took off from there with a 2-0 victory

FIXTURES

Saturday 10th September

Birmingham City	v	Charlton
Bolton	v	Blackburn Rovers
Chelsea	v	Sunderland
Manchester Utd	v	Manchester City
Middlesbrough	v	Arsenal
Newcastle Utd	v	Fulham
Tottenham	v	Liverpool
WBA	v	Wigan
West Ham	v	Aston Villa

***No matches will be played until the 10th of September due to the World Cup qualifiers.**
Turn to pages 26 & 31 for more information

PREMIER LEAGUE

WBA 2 Birmingham City 3, Aston Villa 1 Blackburn Rovers 0, Fulham 1 Everton 0, Manchester City 2 Portsmouth 1, Tottenham 0 Chelsea 2, West Ham United 1 Bolton 2, Wigan 1 Sunderland 0, Newcastle Utd 0 Manchester Utd 2, Middlesbrough 0 Charlton 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	**4**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**8**	**0**	**12**
Man City	4	3	1	0	6	3	10
Charlton	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Man Utd	3	3	0	0	5	0	9
Bolton	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Tottenham	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Arsenal	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Aston Villa	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
West Ham	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Liverpool	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Blackburn	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Middlesbrough	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Birmingham	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Fulham	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
West Brom	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Wigan	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
Everton	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Portsmouth	4	0	1	3	3	7	1
Newcastle	4	0	1	3	0	6	1
Sunderland	4	0	0	4	2	7	0

Football League Championship

Burnley 2 Derby 2, Cardiff 2 Wolverhampton 2, Crystal Palace 2 Stoke 0, Leicester City 0 Luton 2, Millwall 1 Ipswich 2, Norwich 0 Leeds United 1, Plymouth 0 Hull 1, Preston 0 Brighton 0, Sheffield Utd 2 Coventry 1, Southampton 2 Crewe 0, Watford 0 Reading 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	**5**	**4**	**0**	**1**	**11**	**6**	**12**
Reading	5	3	1	1	11	2	10
Luton	5	3	1	1	8	5	10
Leeds	5	3	1	1	6	3	10
Southampton	5	3	1	1	6	3	10
Ipswich	5	3	1	1	6	4	10
Derby	5	2	3	0	8	5	9
Watford	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
Hull	5	2	2	1	4	2	8
Wolverhampton	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
QPR	5	2	2	1	4	5	8
Crystal Palace	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
Stoke	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
Crewe	5	1	3	1	7	8	6
Coventry	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
Leicester	5	1	2	2	7	10	5
Preston	5	1	2	2	4	7	5
Burnley	5	1	1	3	9	9	4
Cardiff	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Plymouth	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Norwich	5	0	3	2	3	5	3
Sheff Wed	5	0	3	2	2	4	3
Brighton	5	0	3	2	3	7	3
Millwall	5	0	1	4	2	10	1

Football League One

Barnsley 1 Brentford 1, Bradford 1 Bournemouth 2, Bristol City 2 Milton Keynes Dons 2, Chesterfield 0 Tranmere 2, Colchester Utd 0 Oldham 0, Gillingham 1 Nottingham Forest 3, Huddersfield Town 2 Hartlepool 1, Port Vale 2 Doncaster 0, Rotherham 4 Blackpool 0, Swindon Town 4 Yeovil 2, Walsall 2 Swansea City 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	**5**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**8**	**3**	**10**
Huddersfield	5	3	1	1	8	5	10
Oldham	5	3	1	1	9	7	10
Port Vale	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Scunthorpe	5	3	1	1	5	4	10
Swansea	5	3	0	2	10	8	9
Rotherham	5	2	2	1	7	3	8
Bournemouth	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Gillingham	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
Walsall	5	2	2	1	10	11	8
Tranmere	5	2	1	2	8	5	7
Bradford	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
Barnsley	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
Swindon	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Nottm Forest	5	2	0	3	8	8	6
Southend	5	1	2	2	6	6	5
Bristol City	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Colchester	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Hartlepool	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Doncaster	5	1	2	2	3	5	5
Milton Keynes Dons	5	0	4	1	6	8	4
Chesterfield	5	1	0	4	5	11	3
Blackpool	5	0	3	2	4	10	3
Yeovil	5	0	2	3	3	8	2

***For Tables and results for Football League Two and Nationwide Conference turn to page 31**

EUROPE

TABLES AND RESULTS

What's on the Box

September

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Sat 10 September
Man Utd v Man City 9.55 pm
Tottenham v Liverpool 11.55 pm
Sun 11 September
Middlesbrough v Arsenal 2.10 am
Mon 12 September
Bolton v Blackburn 12.55 am
Tue 13 September
West Ham v Aston Villa 4.55 am
Sat 17 September
Fulham v West Ham 11.55 pm
Sun 18 September
Aston Villa v Tottenham 2.10 am
Liverpool v Man Utd 8.55 pm
Blackburn v Newcastle 10.55 pm
Tue 20 September
Arsenal v Everton 4.55 am
Sat 24 September
Birmingham v Liverpool 9.40 pm
Newcastle v Man City 11.55 pm
Sun 25 September
Bolton v Portsmouth 2.10 am
Mon 26 September
Mid/brough v Sunderland 12.55 am
Tue 27 September
Tottenham v Fulham 4.55 am

A-LEAGUE

Fri Sep 2
NZ Knights v Sydney 6.00 pm
Adelaide v Queensland 8.00 pm
Sun Sep 4
CC Marinerst v Newcastle 3.00 pm
Melbourne v Perth 5.00 pm
Fri Sep 9
Adelaide v Melbourne 8.00 pm
Sun Sep 11
Newcastle v Sydney 5.00 pm
Fri Sep 16
Sydney v CC Mariners 8.00 pm
Sun Sep 18
Queensland v Melbourne 3.00 pm
Newcastle v NZ Knights 5.00 pm
Thur Sep 22
NZ Knights v Perth 6.00 pm
Fri Sep 23
Queensland v Sydney 8.00 pm
Sun Sep 25
Melbourne v Newcastle 5.00 pm
Fri Sep 30
CC Mariners v Melbourne 8.00 pm

***To be shown on Fox channels 11 & 12**

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Saturday, September 3rd
Wales v England LIVE
Kick off: Midnight AEST
Sunday, September 4th
Turkey v Denmark LIVE
Kick off: 04:00am AEST
Iceland v Croatia LIVE
Kick off: 04:05am
Wednesday, September 7th
Kazakhstan v Greece LIVE
Kick off: 11pm AEST
Thursday, September 8th
Ukraine v Turkey LIVE
Kick off: 02:15am AEST
Malta v Croatia LIVE
Kick off: 02:45am AEST
Republic of Ireland v France LIVE
Kick off: 04:45am AEST
Northern Ireland v England
Kick off: Delayed 07:00am AEST
***Only on Setanta Sport**

BELGIAN JUPILER LEAGUE

Mouscron 1 Westerloo 0,Cercle Bruges 2 Waregem 4, FC Brussels 2 Charleroi 2,Germinal Beerschot 2 Ghent 1, La Louviere 2 Standard Liege 3, Lierse 1 Club Brugge 1, St Truiden 1 Beveren 0, Roeselare 4 Lokeren 0, Genk 3 Anderlecht 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Standard	4	4	0	0	10	4	12
2. Anderlecht	4	3	1	0	14	4	10
3. Charleroi	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
4. Club Brugge	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
5. Waregem	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
6. Westerlo	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
7. Lokeren	4	2	1	1	4	5	7
8. Roeselare	4	2	0	2	5	2	6
9. Sint-Truiden	4	2	0	2	2	3	6
10. Brussels	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
11. Genk	4	0	4	0	5	5	4
12. AA Gent	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
13. Lierse SK	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
14. Beveren	4	1	0	3	4	5	3
15. G.B.A.	4	1	0	3	3	7	3
16. Excelsior	4	1	0	3	1	5	3
17. La Louviere	4	0	2	2	3	10	2
18. Cercle	4	0	0	4	2	9	0

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Slaven 0 Dinamo Zagreb 2, Hajduk 1 Cibalia 1, Zagreb 2 Pula 0, Kamen 2 Medimurje 2, Osijek 1 Inter Z 0, Varteks 1 Rijeka 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Dinamo	6	5	0	1	18	2	15
2. Varteks	6	4	0	2	11	7	12
3. Rijeka	6	3	2	1	12	9	11
4. Hajduk	6	3	1	2	12	6	10
5. Zagreb	6	3	1	2	8	6	10
6. Osijek	6	3	0	3	3	9	9
7. Kamen	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
8. Inter	6	2	1	3	4	9	7
9. Cibalia	6	2	1	3	4	13	7
10. Medimurje	6	1	2	3	7	8	5
11. Pula SC	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
12. Slaven	6	0	2	4	3	10	2

DUTCH EREDIVISE

Nijmegen 1 RKC Waakwijk 3, ADO Den Haag 1 Heerenveen 0, Vitesse 0 AZ Alkmaar 5, Sparta Rotterdam 1 NAC Breda 0, NEC Nijmegen 1 RKC Waalwijk 3, Roda JC 0 PSV Eindhoven 3, RBC Roosendaal 1 Willem II 1, Heracles 2 Groningen 1, Ajax 1 Feyenoord 2, Utrecht 1 Twente 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 AZ	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
2.Feyenoord	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
3. RKC	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
4. PSV	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
5. Heracles	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
6. Heerenveen	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
7. NEC	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
8. Ajax	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
9. Den Haag	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
10.Groningen	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
11. FC Twente	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
12. Roda JC	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
13. NAC	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
14. Sparta	3	1	0	2	2	6	3
15. Willem II	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
16. FC Utrecht	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
17. RBC	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
18. Vitesse	3	0	1	2	3	9	1

FRENCH LIGUE 1

Marseille 1 Ajaccio 1, Nancy 6 Rennes 0, Nantes 0 Metz 0, Le Mans 1 Troyes 0, Paris St Germain 1 Nice 2, Strasbourg 0 Bordeaux 0, St Etienne 0 Sochaux 0, Monaco 0 Lens 0, Auxerre 0 Lyon 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Lyon	5	4	1	0	7	2	13
2. Lens	5	3	1	1	11	3	10
3. Paris SG	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
4. Bordeaux	5	3	1	1	4	1	10
5. Le Mans	5	2	2	1	6	2	8
6. Nantes	5	2	2	1	6	3	8
7. Nice	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
8. Ajaccio	5	1	4	0	6	4	7
9. St Etienne	5	1	4	0	3	1	7
10. Monaco	5	2	1	2	3	4	7
11. Auxerre	5	2	1	2	3	9	7
12. Lille	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
13. Troyes	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
14. Sochaux	5	1	2	2	2	3	5
15. Toulouse	5	1	2	2	2	5	5
16. Nancy	5	1	0	4	7	5	3
17. Strasbourg	5	0	3	2	1	3	3
18. Metz	5	0	3	2	1	6	3
19. Rennes	5	1	0	4	3	16	3
20. Marseille	5	0	2	3	4	9	2

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Cologne 2 Kaiserslautern 3, Bayern Munich 3 Hertha Berlin 0, Eintracht Frankfurt 1 Nuremberg 0, Hamburg 1 Hanover 1, Schalke 1 Moenchengladbach 1, Wolfsburg 2 B.Leverkusen 1, Werder Bremen 1 Stuttgart 1, Arminia Bielefeld 2 Mainz 0 , Duisburg 1 Dortmund 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Bayern Mun	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
2 Bremen	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
3. Hamburger	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
4. Schalke 04	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
5. Kaisers	3	2	0	1	9	7	6
6. 1.FC Koln	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
7. Wolfsburg	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
8. Hertha BSC	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
9. Hannover	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
10. Leverkusen	3	1	0	2	7	8	3
11. Arminia	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
12. Frankfurt	3	1	0	2	2	6	3
13. Dortmund	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
14. Stuttgart	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
15. Duisburg	3	0	2	1	5	7	2
16. Mon/bach	3	0	2	1	2	5	2
17. Nurnberg	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
18. Mainz 05	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

GREEK ETHNIKI KATIGORIA

Xanthi 1 PAOK 0, Kallithea 1 Egaleo 1, Panionios 1 Larisa 1, Panathinaikos 0 Olympiakos 2, Kalamaria 2 OFI Crete 1, Akratitos 3 Iraklis 1, Halkidona vs AEK Athens – Tuesday AET.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Akratitos	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
2.Olympiakos	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
3. Kalamaria	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
4. Xanthi	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
5. Aigaleo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
6. Kallithea	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
7. Larisa	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
8. Panionios	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
9. AEK Athens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Halkidona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Ionikos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Levadiakos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. OFI	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
14. PAOK	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
15. Iraklis	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
16. PAO	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2

Barnet 0 Grimsby 1, Boston Utd 2 Mansfield 2, Bury 2 Wrexham 2, Carlisle 0 Northampton 1, Cheltenham 1 Leyton Orient 1, Chester 4 Darlington 4, Notts County 2 Bristol Rovers 0, Oxford 1 Stockport 1, Peterborough 0 Torquay 0, Rochdale 3 Macclesfield 1, Rusden 1 Lincoln City 1, Shrewsbury 1 Wycombe 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts County	5	3	2	0	6	2	11
Rochdale	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
Barnet	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Leyton Orient	5	3	1	1	7	7	10
Wycombe	5	2	3	0	10	5	9
Cheltenham	5	2	3	0	9	5	9
Darlington	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Peterborough	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
Grimsby	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Carlisle	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
Chester	4	1	3	0	8	7	6
Rushden	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Lincoln City	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
Oxford Utd	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
Northampton	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Mansfield	5	1	2	2	7	7	5
Wrexham	5	1	2	2	4	4	5
Stockport	5	0	4	1	6	8	4
Bristol Rovers	5	1	1	3	7	10	4
Bury	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Shrewsbury	5	0	3	2	3	6	3
Boston Utd	5	0	3	2	5	10	3
Torquay	5	0	2	3	2	7	2
Macclesfield	4	0	1	3	4	8	1

ENGLISH NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE

Accrington 1 Exeter 2, Aldershot 0 Altrincham 2, Burton 1 Canvey Island 2, Dagenham 0 Scarborough 2, Forest Green 2 Halifax 2, Gravesend 0 Cambridge Utd 0, Hereford 0 Grays A 2, Kidderminster 1 Southport 1, Morecambe 3 Crawley 0, Stevenage 3 Tamworth 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter	4	4	0	0	7	1	12
Morecambe	4	3	0	1	5	2	9
Grays Athletic	4	2	2	0	10	3	8
York	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
Cambridge	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Stevenage	4	2	0	2	10	7	6
Hereford	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Canvey Island	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Accrington	4	2	0	2	4	5	6
Altrincham	4	2	0	2	4	5	6
Dag & Red	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Tamworth	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Forest Green	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Halifax	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Kidderminster	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Woking	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
Scarborough	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Southport	4	1	1	2	6	10	4
Gravesend	4	1	1	2	3	9	4
Burton Albion	4	0	2	2	4	6	2
Crawley Town	4	0	2	2	0	5	2
Aldershot	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

PORTUGUSE SUPER LIGA

Naval 2 Porto 3, Belenenses 3 Uniao Leiria 1, Benfica 0 Gil Vicente 2,Nacional Madeira 2 Academica 2; Rio Ave 3 Guimaraes 1, Braga 1 Penafiel 0, Vitoria Setubal 0 Pacos de Ferreira 1, Maritimo 1 Sporting Lisbon 2, Estrela Amadora vs Boavista – Tuesday AET.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Rio Ave	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
2. Gil Vicente	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
3. Porto	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
4. Sporting CP	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
5. Sp.Braga	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
6. Nacional	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
7. Belenenses	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
8. Naval	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
9. Ferreira	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
10. Academica	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
11. Boavista	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
12. Setubal	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
13. Benfica	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
14. Amadora	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
15. Maritimo	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
16. Leiria	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
17. Penafiel	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
18. Guimaraes	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aberdeen 3 Falkirk 0, Hearts 2 Motherwell 1, Kilmarnock 3 Livingston 0, Rangers 0 Hibernian 3, Dundee Utd 1 Inverness CT 1, Dunfermline 0 Celtic 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	5	5	0	0	15	3	15
Celtic	5	3	1	1	14	8	10
Kilmarnock	5	3	1	1	13	8	10
Hibernian	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Rangers	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Inverness CT	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Aberdeen	5	2	1	2	8	7	7
Dundee Utd	5	1	2	2	7	11	5
Motherwell	5	1	1	3	11	15	4
Falkirk	5	1	0	4	3	10	3
Dunfermline	5	0	2	3	2	8	2
Livingston	5	0	1	4	1	12	1

SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

Alaves 0 Barcelona 0, Ath.Bilbao 3 Real Sociedad 0, Valencia 1 Real Betis 0, Atl.Madrid 0 Real Zaragoza 0, Celta Vigo 3 Malaga 0, Osasuna 2 Villarreal 1, Espanyol 0 Getafe 2, Real Mallorca 0 Deportivo Coruna 1, Sevilla 1 Santander 0, Cadiz 1 Real Madrid 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Athletic	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
2. Celta	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
3. Getafe	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
4. Osasuna	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
5. Real Madrid	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
6. Deportivo	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
7. Sevilla	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
8. Valencia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
9. Alaves	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
10. Atletico	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
11. Barcelona	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
12. Zaragoza	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
13. Cadiz	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
14. Villarreal	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
15. Betis	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
16. Mallorca	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
17. Racing	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
18. Espanyol	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
19. Malaga	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
20. Sociedad	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

TURKISH FIRST DIVISION

Gaziantepspor 2 Galatasaray 2, Ankaraspor 0 Rizespor 0, Konyaspor 1 Denizlispor 0, Sivasspor 1 Vestel Manisaspor 0, Fenerbahce 5 Samsunspor 2, Malatyaspor 1 Trabzonspor 1, Ankaragucu 1 Erciyesspor 2, Kayserispor 2 Genclerbirligi 0, Besiktas 1 Diyarbakirspor 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Galatasaray	4	3	1	0	10	5	10
2. Fenerbahxe	4	2	2	0	9	5	8
3. Besiktas	4	2	2	0	6	2	8
4. Trabzonspor	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
5. Gaziantspor	4	2	2	0	7	5	8
6. Erciyesspor	4	2	2	0	5	3	8
7. Sivasspor	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
8. Kayserispor	4	2	0	2	7	5	6
9. Ankaraspor	4	1	3	0	3	2	6
10. Diyakirspor	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
11. Konyaspor	4	1	2	1	2	2	5
12. Manisapor	4	1	1	2	8	5	4
13. Saunspor	4	1	0	3	7	11	3
14. Geerbirligi	4	0	2	2	0	4	2
15. Malataspor	4	0	2	2	4	12	2
16. Rizespor	4	0	1	3	2	5	1
17. Ankragucu	4	0	1	3	4	8	1
18. Denizlispor	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

SOCCER

SERIE A FIXTURES

ROUND 2: 11-09-2005

.....	Cagliari	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Udinese	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Livorno	.....

ROUND 3: 18-09-2005

.....	Cagliari	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Udinese	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Palermo	.....

ROUND 4: 21-09-2005

.....	Ascoli	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Juventus	.....

ROUND 5: 25-09-2005

.....	Cagliari	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Udinese	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Milan	.....

ROUND 6: 02-10-2005

.....	Ascoli	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Lazio	.....

ROUND 7: 16-10-2005

.....	Ascoli	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Udinese	.....

ROUND 8: 23-10-2005

.....	Chievo	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Inter Milan	.....

ROUND 9: 26-10-2005

.....	Ascoli	vs	Udinese	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Fiorentina	.....

ROUND 10: 30-10-2005

.....	Chievo	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Palermo	.....

ROUND 11: 06-11-2005

.....	Ascoli	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Udinese	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Chievo	.....

ROUND 12: 20-11-2005

.....	Chievo	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Messina	.....

ROUND 13: 27-11-2005

.....	Ascoli	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Udinese	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Reggina	.....

ROUND 14: 04-12-2005

.....	Chievo	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Livorno	.....

ROUND 15: 11-12-2005

.....	Ascoli	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Lecce	.....

ROUND 16: 18-12-2005

.....	Cagliari	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Udinese	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Lecce	.....

ROUND 17: 21-12-2005

.....	Ascoli	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Sampdoria	.....

ROUND 18: 08-01-2006

.....	Cagliari	vs	Udinese	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Roma	.....

ROUND 19: 15-01-2006

.....	Ascoli	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Treviso	.....

ROUND 20: 18-01-2006

.....	Milan	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Udinese	.....

ROUND 21: 22-01-2006

.....	Lazio	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Ascoli	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Treviso	.....

ROUND 22: 29-01-2006

.....	Messina	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Ascoli	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Siena	.....

ROUND 23: 05-02-2006

.....	Siena	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Udinese	.....

ROUND 24: 08-02-2006

.....	Roma	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Ascoli	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Treviso	.....

ROUND 25: 12-02-2006

.....	Parma	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Udinese	.....

ROUND 26: 17-02-2006

.....	Sampdoria	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Siena	.....

ROUND 27: 26-02-2006

.....	Cagliari	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Ascoli	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Udinese	.....

ROUND 28: 05-03-2006

.....	Udinese	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Siena	.....

ROUND 29: 12-03-2006

	Empoli	vs	Chievo	
	Cagliari	vs	Fiorentina	
	Messina	vs	Lecce	
	Parma	vs	Livorno	
	Juventus	vs	Milan	
	Lazio	vs	Reggina	
	Ascoli	vs	Roma	
	Inter Milan	vs	Sampdoria	
	Siena	vs	Treviso	
	Palermo	vs	Udinese	

ROUND 30: 19-03-2006

.....	Fiorentina	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Siena	.....

ROUND 31: 26-03-2006

.....	Ascoli	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Udinese	.....

ROUND 32: 02-04-2006

.....	Palermo	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Siena	.....

ROUND 33: 09-04-2006

.....	Milan	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Ascoli	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Treviso	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Udinese	.....

ROUND 34: 15-04-2006

.....	Reggina	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Udinese	.....

ROUND 35: 23-04-2006

.....	Ascoli	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Udinese	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Treviso	.....

ROUND 36: 30-04-2006

.....	Treviso	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Empoli	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Udinese	.....

ROUND 37: 07-05-2006

.....	Udinese	vs	Cagliari	.....
.....	Lecce	vs	Chievo	.....
.....	Messina	vs	Empoli	.....
.....	Ascoli	vs	Lazio	.....
.....	Parma	vs	Milan	.....
.....	Juventus	vs	Palermo	.....
.....	Fiorentina	vs	Reggina	.....
.....	Livorno	vs	Sampdoria	.....
.....	Inter Milan	vs	Siena	.....
.....	Roma	vs	Treviso	.....

ROUND 38: 14-05-2006

.....	Empoli	vs	Ascoli	.....
.....	Chievo	vs	Fiorentina	.....
.....	Cagliari	vs	Inter Milan	.....
.....	Reggina	vs	Juventus	.....
.....	Sampdoria	vs	Lecce	.....
.....	Siena	vs	Livorno	.....
.....	Palermo	vs	Messina	.....
.....	Lazio	vs	Parma	.....
.....	Milan	vs	Roma	.....
.....	Treviso	vs	Udinese	.....